

The Leader.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

Contents:

NEWS OF THE WEEK—

	PAGE
The Week in Parliament	674
Letters from Paris	678
Continental Notes	679
The Camp	680
Reform of the Navy	680
The Farmer and his Friends	681
Burnah rejects Peace	682
Church Simony	682
A Clergyman Suspended	682
Workmen and Wages	682
Sham Nobility	682

The Amizes	682
The Dangerous Classes	683
A Mysterious Lady	683
A Wicked Wife	683
How the Cab Act works	683
Cheap Beer	683
Miscellaneous	683
Health of London during the Week	685
Births, Marriages, and Deaths	685

PUBLIC AFFAIRS—

Latest Position of the Russo-Turkish Dispute	685
--	-----

An English Conseil de Prud'hommes	686
Local Self-Government to be Considered	686
The Simony Bill thrown out	687
Policy of the Western Powers—Turkish Resources	687
"A Stranger" in Parliament	689

LITERATURE—

Books on our Table	691
Haydon's Autobiography	691
English Philosophy	692

PORTFOLIO—

Omitted Passages from a Boy's Epic.—III. Love and the Faun ..	693
---	-----

THE ARTS—

Don Giovanni	693
German Plays	694
Burford's Panorama of Mexico	694

COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS—

City Intelligence, Markets, Advancements, &c.	694-696
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SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1853.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

News of the Week.

THE quarrel between Russia and Turkey appears to be in some degree held in suspense, and the reason why has now been nearly explained.

Notwithstanding the fact that Russia is pushing her troops and diplomatic notes without much regard to the representations on the other side, the Allied Powers are making a last effort to accommodate the dispute. While M. Drouyn de Lhuys is composing a second note to Count Nesselrode—and from the appearance of the first it is to be expected that the French Foreign Minister will ably dispose of the Russian sophistries—a new proclamation, emanating apparently from the French and English Embassies, is proceeding from Constantinople to St. Petersburg. There have been many reports respecting this proposition, chiefly current in Vienna, whence so many of the false accounts have come; but the reply which Lord John Russell vouchsafed to Mr. Disraeli on Thursday night explains generally the nature of the communication. It would appear that, by the advice of the Allied Powers, the draft of a note is submitted to the Emperor of Russia, so composed as to pledge Turkey to the continued observance of the religious toleration which the Sultan has already promised, and which ought thus to satisfy the Emperor of Russia. On the other hand, being couched in the form of a note or other authentic document, addressed to all the Allied Powers, it would cease to have either the irregular character of the convention which Russia demands, or the humiliating air of a bond undertaken by Turkey towards a single Power. The obligation would lie from Turkey to the council of European Powers—a council which all the world will admit to be superior to any one Power. There is a strong faith in London that Russia will acquiesce in this suggestion.

Time will show—but for our own part we are not so sanguine. It is perfectly true that the substantial interests of Russia, as well as of Europe, ought to dictate an acquiescence to so reasonable a proposition. But the conduct of Russia thus far has shown a disregard of prudence and real self-interest, equalled only by her disregard of justice or of truth. The second circular which bears the name of Count Nesselrode, would almost have paralyzed any but a Russian statesman's hand in the writing; it is a gigantic Robert Macaireism, so palpably false in its effrontery, and yet so absurdly impolitic in its tendency. Reiterating the

claims which Russia puts forth, it declares that Russia had warned England and France not to interfere, asserts that the united fleet of England and France has, *nevertheless*, advanced within sight of the Turkish capital, in breach of treaty, and demands as a condition, precedent to any hope of a pacific arrangement, and besides that already required from Turkey, that the two squadrons should withdraw from the Turkish waters. Now, the assertion that they have taken the place ascribed is false, and the new demand is not based either in treaty or right. The profession of having warned the two Governments is a piece of arrogant impertinence, and the whole paper is a tissue of transparent sophistry. Nobody believes that Count Nesselrode really composed it, and it is ascribed to the absolute dictation of his master. The issuing of such a document, and the manifest attempts of the Emperor to rouse the fanaticism of his people, his general defiance of public opinion and of justice, show that he considers himself too powerful to be bound by any of the obligations which restrain ordinary potentates; and while it is to be supposed that he will go forward, it is confessed that with him alone lies the determination of peace or war. A valuable lesson for admirers of autocracy as the incarnation of "order."

An intempestive *émeute*—the exciting cause of which may or may not be a diplomatic manœuvre of the Austrian Minister at Constantinople to afford a pretext for complicity with Russian violence—has threatened to embroil Austria and Turkey afresh; M. Kossta, an officer under Kossuth, and one among the refugees who travelled from Turkey to America, had returned to Smyrna. The Austrians aver that this is counter to agreement; and he was seized by the commander of an Austrian brig. The refugees in Smyrna revolted, and attempted to rescue the Hungarian; and in the riot two Austrian midshipmen were killed. The American Consul distinguished himself by the determination to save Kossta, as the bearer of an American passport. He ordered an American corvette, opportunely appearing off the town, to insist on the surrender of the refugee, under penalty of a broadside if the Austrian should attempt to make off. Thus far rumour; confirmatory at least of all expectation of the new American Executive. Whatever may be the real merits of this case, the position of Turkey is extremely painful. The Porte, however, appears to have even anticipated all reasonable demands for satisfaction on the part of Austria. No doubt

it is not desirable that the great question of European peace should be complicated with a comparatively insignificant dispute. It has been asserted, but only half believed, that Austria joined the Allied Powers in their representations to Russia; it now appears that they are making separate suggestions of their own. It is less improbable that both Austria and Prussia are waiting upon Providence, and the fortunes of the Czar. At all events, the conduct of M. de Bruck continues to be equivocal.

Our own Government appears to maintain the position of armed reserve that it has from the first taken up. For a complete judgment we must wait until a fuller explanation; but without affecting a very diplomatic or editorial reserve, we may say, that our Government appears to be free from blame on the score of precipitation, and, we trust, has preserved both a diplomatic firmness and a zealous attention to practical preparations. The zeal of Sir James Graham has at all events been made apparent this week. The Bills introduced into Parliament—one for ratifying certain articles of the new navy regulations, allowing new attractions and premiums to the men, the other for establishing a volunteer coast-guard afloat, are accompanied by the announcement that a fleet of twelve screw war-ships, some of considerable size, is about to be built forthwith, and completed as soon as possible. Attempts are made, both in Parliament and out of doors, to create a belief that Ministers are not quite sincere in their Turkish policy, and that there is some "split in the Cabinet." We believe these insinuations to be fables, and totally unsupported by evidence, and until some more specific charges can be advanced, *innuendo* only discredits those who resort to it for the sake of a momentary *éclat*.

The business in Parliament has been multifarious, and in the main, useful. Mr. Bright's successes in the Committee on the Indian Reform Bill justify the distinctions we have drawn between the hopelessness of resisting the Government measure as a whole, and the hopefulness of introducing improvements. Mr. Bright has succeeded in removing the property qualification for Directors,—a change, by which a comparatively poor man of eminence may find his seat at the Board. And he has also succeeded in securing eligibility for those who have been ten years in India, even though they have not been in public service,—also a great improvement.

A bill proceeding through the House of Commons, to reform the tests for admission to the

Scotch Universities, is a measure that has been long wanted, but is not for that reason less creditable to the present regime. The nature of the change is, to substitute an obligation upon those entering the Universities, not to teach counter to the established faith of Scotland, leaving the question of the professor's own belief untested. The reform of Ecclesiastical Courts, with some other measures of a cognate kind, is thrown over till next session; Mr. Hadfield's bill on Probate Duties being a part of the general subject.

Prison reform is in the same position. The Lord Chancellor's bill to authorize the substitution of "penal servitude" for transportation, is necessary for the development of the Government plan of abolishing transportation; it conveys, indeed, the Parliamentary authority for it. But Mr. Adderley's bill to establish reformatory prisons for young offenders, introduced in the House of Commons, and Lord Shaftesbury's Juvenile Mendicancy bill, will inevitably stand over till next session.

Mr. Milner Gibson has prudently withdrawn his County Rates bill, leaving Ministers to introduce a measure on the subject of a County representation next session: Lord Palmerston at least has promised to do so.

The most signal exploit of the Opposition has been to hazard an attempt which would have been mean had it succeeded, and is ridiculous having failed. The House now sits all day and all the evening, with a couple of hours before six o'clock for dinner and relaxation. If the members do not run out into Palace-yard for a game at prison-base or leap-frog, probably it is because they are too tired; for their desire to escape from confinement must be extreme. At six o'clock they drop in again by degrees; the foremost are those who have petitions, questions, or other important business of their own on their minds, and they generally occupy the better part of an hour, public business then commencing. Soon after six o'clock, however, Mr. Edward Ball, backed by Mr. Disraeli and a considerable number of the Tory Members, stood ready to take advantage of the absence of the other side. Mr. Ball moved a resolution, making encroachments on the Malt duties, by authorizing the farmer to malt barley "for his own use;" and the plan was to move and second that resolution in a hurry, and carry it in the absence of the House. Mr. Gladstone, however, suddenly appeared, and spoke until the members could assemble. The Opposition had had their trick, but it was defeated.

The service which they did for the farmer in that petty manoeuvre will scarcely be prized as it once would have been; the farmer is not now the uninformed animal that he was when he took the lodgers at 17, Bond-street for his "friends." Read the speeches at the Gloucester gathering of the Royal Agricultural Society,—observe the truly exalted, and yet practical philosophy there expounded as the rationale of agricultural knowledge; notice the statement that the British farmer, availing himself of scientific acquisitions, discovering that every additional improvement enables him to employ more labour with profit, is now pronounced to be a producer who can defy the world; and then ask yourself if the new and true British farmer is likely to mistake men with little pettifogging manoeuvres like that of Mr. Ball and other similarly peevish Protectionist pervers for genuine representatives of enlightened agricultural constituencies?

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

LORD LYNCHURST put some questions with regard to the Russian note. He first pointed out to Lord Clarendon some reported differences between the Russian original and the French translation, and then interpreted one passage as a pledge that Russia would not withdraw from the Principalities until the Porte has satisfied its demands, and until the French and English fleets withdraw from the "Turkish waters."

Lord CLARENDON said, that the original document

"kept for home consumption" for circulation among the Russian people, differed somewhat from that sent abroad—particularly with respect to the word "perfidious," as applied to the Sultan's word. With respect to the interpretation of the passage referred to, Lord Clarendon said:—

"I do not entirely take the same view as my noble and learned friend appears to do of what is stated in that note. I certainly can have no hesitation in saying that we do not consider that the presence of the British and French fleets in the Bay of Besika is at all similar, or can in any way be compared, to the occupation of the Danubian principalities. (Loud cheers.) And certainly no condition with respect to the departure of the one or the evacuation of the other will be made." (Renewed cheers.)

LORD FITZWILLIAM pointed out that the document not only said that the fleets should retire from "the Turkish waters," but "from within sight of the Turkish capital;" and Lord LYNCHURST re-quoted the words as follows:—"As soon as the British fleet shall remove from within sight of Constantinople we will retire." Lord CLARENDON said it did not matter, as at any rate the statement is incorrect; the English and French fleets are neither within the Turkish waters nor within sight of Constantinople.

With reference to the same subject, Lord JOHN RUSSELL said, on Monday (in answer to Mr. Disraeli) that the Russian Government could not substantiate the fact that the entry of the Russian troops into the principalities was caused by the sailing of the English fleet to the Turkish waters. Lord John added, that he did not understand from the document that there was a declaration that matters could not be arranged between Russia and Turkey unless the English fleet left the Turkish waters.

On Thursday Mr. DISRAELI reiterated his interrogatories. Referring lightly to the difference between him and Lord John on the previous evening as to Count Nesselrode making the withdrawal of the allied fleets a condition of the evacuation of the principalities, he continued:—"Assuming as I do that these negotiations are now only formally, and not virtually, pursued—assuming that they have arrived at what is called a dead lock—and believing, as I do, that it would be a great advantage to the public service, in that case, that there should be a discussion on this important question in both Houses of Parliament—(hear, hear)—I wish, therefore, to know if the noble lord has any objection to fix a day on which the honourable member for Aylesbury (Mr. Layard) may bring forward the question in the House of Commons?" (Hear, hear.)

In reply, Lord JOHN RUSSELL accounted for his former misstatement by the cursory reading he had had of the document, and added:—

"I also thought it impossible that two things so totally unlike should be put on a par, or that the Russian government should deem themselves at all justified in demanding that the fleets of the English and French should leave the Turkish waters before they evacuated the principalities—because in the one case the English and French fleets were in the waters of an allied power, and were there, not for the purpose of putting any pressure on that power, or of injuring it in any way, but only to be ready in case that power should feel itself justified in calling for the assistance of its allies on the invasion of its territory. In the other case, that of an actual occupation by the Russian troops of principalities belonging to Turkey, I could see no similarity or comparison between them, and I could not think that a person of the experience and sagacity of Count Nesselrode could affix his signature to a document declaring that that was the determination of the Russian Government. Admitting, then, that the words bore on the face of them the interpretation which the right honourable gentleman gave to them, I come to the question which he has just asked me. I have to state that he is mistaken in his supposition that the negotiations on this subject have come to a dead lock. On the contrary, both the English and French Governments have considered that there are propositions might be accepted to both by Russia and Turkey, which might consequently be the means of obtaining a pacific termination for this unfortunate occurrence. Whether or no those hopes may be justified cannot be known immediately; it must take some time before we can learn from St. Petersburg what is the view taken of any mode of adjustment which England, France, or Austria may approve. While such is the state of the negotiations I think it would not be desirable that the honourable member should bring his motion before the House."

The rumoured occupation of Bosnia by the Austrians has been also referred to. Lord CLARENDON states that he doubts the correctness of the report. The English Minister at Vienna has said nothing of it, and the Austrian Minister at this court doubts it—believing that the rumour may have arisen from the movement of Austrian troops to Peterwardein, a town in the Austrian territory.

THE MALT TAX—A NIGHT SURPRISE.

The Opposition made a novel movement on Tuesday. The House met at six, after having sat during the day from twelve to four, and the general expectation was that the House would be counted out. No Ministers appeared, and the Ministerial benches were almost deserted—a few Radical members only sitting on the back benches. But on the Opposition benches Mr.

Disraeli and a select party were arrayed. A member moved that the House be counted, but more than forty were present. The opportunity for an attack seemed fair, and Mr. BALL, who had given notice of his intention, rose and moved the following resolution on the Malt Tax:—"That this House resolve itself into a committee for the purpose of considering the duties on malt, with a view of making such alteration in those duties that the farmer may be exempt from the malt duty on such quantity of malt as he may require for his own use, made from barley of his own growth." Instead of making a speech Mr. Ball read the resolution and sat down, his party calling out eagerly for a division.

Sir JOHN SHELLEY rose and seconded the motion, using some discontented language against the Government for their conduct in not coming down to meet the question, and declaring his resolve to vote with Mr. Ball. The Opposition seeing themselves so strong, called out, "Divide, divide." Then followed "Withdraw," and the division between forty or fifty Tories and "no" Ministerialists was about to take place, when suddenly

Mr. GLADSTONE appeared in his place. Roars of laughter greeted him as he rose to speak, the object of his oratory being understood. He first apologised for his absence; he had not expected the motion to come on so soon; and then entered at great length, and with purposed elaboration, into the merits of the question. He argued that if the motion meant that farmers should be allowed to drink beer free of duty the concession was unusual and injurious to the revenue; that as food for their cattle science and experiment had shown that malt was not as wholesome as barley; and that if the concession be given you should have the excise carried into every farm house, for the revenue officer should supervise the amount manufactured. The difficulty of this undertaking would cause a serious injury to the revenue, and even on that ground alone the motion should be resisted.

"The great question, whether to tax malt or beer, has been open for a quarter of a century, and it is still an open question. If it were possible to hit upon some compromise, which, if it did not establish exact justice, would establish an approximation to justice, and then reimpose the beer duty, it would be a great public benefit, and confer a great advantage on the agriculturist and on all trades connected with the preparation of malt. The great difficulty is how to levy a duty on private brewers. The offensiveness of the anomaly which permitted the greatest nobleman in the land to fill his magnificent cellar with malt liquor, and to keep a great quantity in store for the purpose of displaying his princely hospitality, whilst a large duty was imposed on the commonest person, was the sole cause which led the Government in 1830 to abandon the beer duty and retain the duty on malt. A great deal of discussion has taken place as to whether that was the right course. The question turns almost entirely on the anterior question, whether something like a tax can be levied on the private brewer without the annoyance of private restrictions. I do not think any gentleman could better employ his time than in considering the point at which I have just glanced; and I should feel greatly indebted to any one who can assist me in the solution of such a great question."

With much unnecessary verbiage, but with his usual fluency, Mr. Gladstone repeated these arguments, and then sat down. While he had been speaking Mr. Hayter, the whipper-in, was duly active, and the Ministerial bench soon filled. The House divided, and there appeared for Mr. Ball's motion 69; against it 73. So that Ministers won by a narrow majority.

INDIA BILL.

The clauses of this Bill have been discussed in Committee.

Mr. VERNON SMITH proposed an amendment providing that instead of the six Directors of ten years Indian service, nominated by the Crown, that number should be elected by the Court of Directors, subject to the approval of the Crown. "Nominees" are objectionable in every way. They have become odious in the colonial legislatures, and in the working of the new Act they will confuse responsibility and introduce rivalry into the Court. If they are active they will override the Court, if they are inactive the Directors will call themselves the real representatives, and treat them as mere "nominees." Besides, the Board of Control would find itself awkwardly placed in having to differ, as it may have, from votes carried by its own nominees. Pointing out, in passing, the inferior position in the Cabinet of the President of the Board of Control ("his office has become either a stepping-stone or a refuge"), and quoting Mr. Macaulay against "nominee" Directors, Mr. Smith denounced the appointment by the Crown as unconstitutional and unadvisable. The amendment he proposed was, that "the six" Directors shall be elected by a majority of not less than one-fourth of the Directors—that each of "the six" shall have served in India, and have returned from it for a certain term—and that no Director or ex-Director (of the other twelve) shall be eligible for the situations.

Sir CHARLES WOOD argued in reply, that nomination by the Crown is better than election by the rest of the Directors. The men appointed will be men of distinguished services and high feelings, and they will be always independent of the Ministry of the day; while, in case of election by the Directors, they might be partisans put in to swamp a useful and independent minority. Mr. HERRIES condemned the mixing up in one body (as proposed in the Government scheme) of persons elected by the proprietors and persons nominated by the Crown. Even if we destroy the existing system, we should, while we keep the Court, give it all honour and prestige, and Mr. Vernon Smith's amendment having that tendency should be supported.

Mr. LOWE urged that the scheme of nomination by the Crown avoided the objectionable "canvass," and would secure "independence" in the Directors—for their independence is not actual but lies in their arguments, their experience, their reason, and their authority. Under the new system it will be still more difficult for the Board of Control to exercise power in defiance of a Court of Directors so eminent and respected. The two-fold sources of appointment will cause an emulation between the Crown and the Court in appointing creditable persons. When finally the Crown is to absorb the Government of India (in 1874, when the Proprietors shall no longer exist) the agency of the Crown must be "nominees;" it is, therefore, desirable to introduce that element now on a small scale. It has been said that as "nominees" are objectionable in colonies they are likewise objectionable in India—but the cases are not similar. The essence of Colonial Government is responsibility to persons residing in the colony, while the essence of Indian Government, and that which mitigates our despotism there, is responsibility to the people of England.

"In a colony the governor is looked upon merely as the image of her Majesty, as a subject discharging a limited duty. In India the endeavour has always been to hold up the Governor-General as combining the greatest power and almost all the attributes of sovereignty, and to keep as much as possible in the background the machinery by which he is coerced and controlled. In a colony a brilliant future is looked to, when a nation may arise equal to our own. In India the most sanguine person cannot look to such a change until after the lapse of centuries of education. In a colony the nominee is the symbol of irresponsible government. In India he is regarded as the symbol of progress, as the means of giving a higher tone to the intellect of the people of India, and increasing that influence which intellect must always command. Moreover, nominees are introduced into a colonial legislative council for the purpose of voting away the money of the people without being their representatives, and for making laws; whereas in this instance, in a colonial sense, those elected by the Court of Proprietors and nominated by the Crown are both nominees not taking their offspring from the will of the people whom they govern. There is another distinction. A nominee in a colony is a legislator and has the power of holding the purse-strings; whereas in India it is not the function of an East India director to act and decide so much as to suggest, to initiate, to advise, and to reason. In the one case there is the necessity for combined action. In the East India directorship, so far from combined action being desirable, it would be the duty of the Government, if they should all be found of one way of thinking, to introduce some heterogeneous element, for the purpose of getting up candid discussions, in order to elicit truth by the conflict of intellect with intellect."

Mr. ELLIOT objected to this clause as tending to the Parliamentary interference with India, than which there could be no greater misfortune. There are not ten men in the House who really know anything about India. Lord STANLEY pointed out that the Crown nominees would without doubt be dependent on the Ministry, and being allowed seats in Parliament, would still more be inclined to act with the Government of the day. This might be obviated by depriving them of their seats in Parliament, or electing them for a longer term—say ten or twelve years. But the amendment is equally objectionable; it institutes a system of self-election, and depends on the continuance of the Court of Proprietors, whom it is desirable to remove. Mr. HUME emphatically objected to the nominee system, as injurious to the independence of the directors. Sir JAMES WEIR HOGG approved of the amendment as better than the Government plan, but he urged the House to increase if not the salaries, at least the rank and influence of the Directors. Mr. CUMMING BRUCE condemned the Government scheme as introducing a political element into the Direction, and though he would have preferred open election, he approved of the amendment. Mr. PHILLIMORE, on the contrary, spoke strongly against any election by the Directors. Recent facts had shown that the places in the Board of Directors are given to those who, like the heroes in the *Dunciad*, can "dive the swiftest through the mud." Mr. MARJORIBANKS, as an East India Director, denied this assertion. Mr. THOMAS BARING objected to the line of demarcation that would exist between elected and nominated Directors, and also to allowing such Crown nominees to sit in Parliament.

The Government should adopt some plan like that proposed in the amendment.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM explained that, by taking this power of nomination, the Government sought not to increase their own power. Their actual power is complete, for the Board of Control is only subject to the moral influence of the Court of Directors. It is to add to that moral influence that the Government propose the nomination of six Directors, and the provision that the nomination is during good behaviour, is but an usual and necessary provision against possible inability or misbehaviour. Canvassing has been most generally objected to as degrading, and sometimes corrupt; this proposition evades the canvass, and strikes at the root of the corruption by taking away the patronage. Also, as Mr. Lowe has said, the time will come (in 1874) when probably we shall be forced to adopt a single government for India—and this proposition prepared the way for that change. Regarding the required term of service in India, and the duration in office after election, amendments may be afterwards introduced; but on the whole, the Government proposition is better than the amendment.

Mr. BRIGHT said: If a single government will be safe in 1874, why not now? Although the Bill is bad, yet the so-called "amendment" proposed by Mr. Smith is still more objectionable. If the Minister appoint the "six Directors," there will be responsibility to public opinion and to the House, but if the other twelve appoint them, where will there be responsibility?

Mr. NEWDEGATE and Mr. HILDYARD lauded the Court of Directors, as did also Mr. MANGLES, who extolled the Proprietors as including Mr. Macaulay, Lord Campbell, Mr. Hallam, and "every eminent man in the City," excepting Mr. Thomas Baring.

On a division, the amendment was rejected by 193 to 111 (majority, 82).

Mr. RICH then moved an amendment, that the Directors' terms of service should be—three, six, and nine, instead of two, four, and six years. Sir CHARLES WOOD opposed it. Mr. BRIGHT objected to the shorter service, and to the presence of directors in parliament, as injurious to the independence of the directors, and tending to stifle discussion on India in the House. "Recently there has been increased affection between the Directors and the Board of Control." This taunt roused Sir JAMES HOGG, who rose to complain of the "offensive" imputation, and to reveal what he had never told before, save to three or four persons, that nine years ago Sir Robert Peel had offered him office in the service of the Crown, with a seat in the Privy Council, and that he had declined the offer through a sense of duty to his colleagues and to India. Mr. BRIGHT explained that he meant nothing personally offensive. The amendment was negatived without a division.

Mr. BRIGHT objected to the clause enacting that the Directors nominated by the Crown should possess a certain amount of stock. Why should the Crown be thus limited in its choice? Sir CHARLES WOOD said, it would be "very desirable" that this condition should be retained, as it seemed that the nominees were connected with the interests of the Company. But on Mr. BRIGHT repeating his argument, Lord JOHN RUSSELL said, that there was much weight in it, and if the House thought that the nominated directors, without the stock, would not be inferior to the others with it, he would consent to the omission of that part of the clause. The House said, "No, no;" (meaning "Certainly not,") and after a congratulation from Mr. DISRAELI, the condition was omitted.

The reduction, by their own vote, of the directors from 30 to 15, was objected to by Sir JAMES WEIR HOGG, as a painful task—a declaration by the body that some of the members are less efficient than others. Mr. BRIGHT echoed this statement; the duty would be "unpalatable, unfair, and disgusting." But Mr. DISRAELI objected to the increased influence which the Crown would have, if the selection were entrusted to it; and the clause was not altered.

Six of the twelve elected Directors must be persons who have served the Crown or the Company in India for ten years. This is enacted in the ninth clause of the new Bill. Mr. BRIGHT moved an amendment that persons who had been engaged in mercantile pursuits in India for the same time should be equally eligible. Mr. VERNON SMITH and Sir JAMES WEIR HOGG approved of the suggestion, and Sir CHARLES WOOD, after some hesitation, concurred in the amendment. He also promised to consider whether, as regards the Directors nominated by the Crown, there should not be a similar extension.

The nominee directors by the new bill can be removed by the Crown for inability or misbehaviour, the provision meaning that during good conduct the directors be irremovable. Lord JOCELYN, anxious to

make the Directors more independent, moved that they could not be removed except by an address to that effect from either House of Parliament to the Crown. Mr. HUME, Mr. PHILLIMORE, and Sir HERBERT MADDOCK, supported this amendment. Sir CHARLES WOOD and Lord JOHN opposed it on the ground that by the proposed clause the directors would be sufficiently independent. Holding office for six years they would depend for re-election on a board of control different from that which appointed them, and being full of Indian experience they would be naturally independent of any Minister. The clause was carried by 90 to 43.

The right of the nominee directors to sit in Parliament was earnestly opposed by Mr. BRIGHT. With probably 1000*l.* a year, and some important patronage, the directors would easily get elected for small boroughs, and in Parliament they would be dependent on the Ministers of the day. The combination of offices would make them less useful in Leadenhall-street, and less useful as legislators. Sir CHARLES WOOD protested against the directors being regarded as "mere placemen at the beck of the Government." They would be chosen from a limited class, having qualifications excluding all political influence, and they should not be excluded from the House, especially if they obtain the confidence of a constituency. There is unnecessary jealousy on this subject. The number of Government offices in the House has decreased of late; there are now but thirty-four or thirty-five. Mr. CORDEN: The proposal of Mr. Bright amounts to this—the Government propose to select six men, whose duty it will be to largely contribute to the government of India; we say, "Do not take gentlemen who are in this House, for you will find that the duties will be incompatible." Lord STANLEY, took the same view. Sir JAMES WEIR HOGG: If you stigmatise these men as "placemen," no man of lofty mind will consent to accept office. Instead, we should elevate the character of the directors; their duties are most onerous and necessary. Mr. MILNER GIBSON: If so, what time will they have for the business of the House? Lord JOHN RUSSELL defended the right of the six directors to sit in the House, on the old Whig principle that there should be no restriction on the choice of the people. It is a mere bugbear to suppose that all the six will sit in the House; probably two of them may obtain seats. But in any case they are likely to be independent, as they shall be appointed for unpolitical qualifications, and will look to the coming rather than to the existing Ministry for re-appointment. After a few more remarks from other members, the amendment (excluding the directors) was rejected by 139 to 79.

An amendment, to substitute a declaration instead of the "oath" to be taken by directors, was warmly supported by speakers from both sides of the House, but rejected by 138 to 99. The clause enacting a by-law against "canvassing" by proprietors was then rejected at Mr. Bright's suggestion.

DETAILS OF THE SUCCESSION DUTY BILL.

One of the clauses exempted from duty heritable bonds in Scotland, because there they are regarded as real property, and rated to the relief of the poor. But on Mr. BARROW arguing that this was no just claim to exemption, Mr. GLADSTONE saw that a great deal was to be said against the clause, and so consented to its omission.

The schedules of the Legacy Act make a lower estimate of the value of a life interest in property, than the tables on which Mr. Gladstone made his calculations for the Succession Duty; Mr. MULLINGS, therefore, proposed that, as it was clear that the Succession Duty would, with its present tables, amount to 3,000,000*l.*, and not to 2,000,000*l.* as estimated, the lower tables should be adopted, as a mitigation of the harsh pressure of the tax. Mr. GLADSTONE adhered to his estimate of 2,000,000*l.* from the tax, for in the inevitable reforms of the probate duties there will be a loss; and recent examination of successions in the peerage confirmed the original estimate of 2,000,000*l.* As to the higher tables, they are quite right, for the value of lives has increased. The amendment was negatived.

The allowance of four years and a half to pay the duty by instalments was objected to by Mr. WILLIAMS, who pointed out that the tax on personal property must be paid in twenty-one days. Mr. GLADSTONE defended the allowance of time; it would be contrary to policy and to feeling to force people to sell part of their estates to pay the tax, as would occur in many cases without this allowance of time. The allowance is in fact a deduction of ten or twelve per cent. from the tax, and as such is quite right. The proposed amendment was negatived.

The taxation of timber was again discussed. Mr. MULLINGS wished an allowance for timber exchanged

for other timber used for building or repairs, and for monies paid by the successor for timber purchased for such repairs. Mr. GLADSTONE assented. But two or three members having pointed out that the clause would cause confusion and duplication of allowance, and that the words, "necessary outgoings" include all allowable allowances, he retracted his assent, and the clause was negatived by 114 to 72. It was then provided that no annual income, from timber, should be taxed, unless it exceeded 10*l*.

The power which the bill gives the commissioners "and their officers" to examine deeds of settlement and title, aroused a "sensitiveness" in the House which Mr. GLADSTONE said "he did not blame, he rather respected it." Therefore as a concession he proposed that the commissioners alone should have power to examine the deeds. This did not quite satisfy Mr. MULLINGS, who moved that "muniments of title" should be excluded from the deeds to be produced; nor Mr. MALINS, who called such forced production "unconstitutional;" nor even Mr. J. PHILLIMORE, who considered the power "dangerous." Notwithstanding those objections, the clause was passed by 132 to 100, the House considering that the production of such documents was necessary for the assessment of the tax. After an added clause, allowing appeals, in cases under 50*l*., to the minor courts (County Courts, in England; Sheriff's Court, in Scotland; and Assistant Barristers' Courts, in Ireland), the report, amended, was agreed to, and the third reading was fixed to take place on Monday.

STAMPS ON NEWSPAPERS.

The new law has been stated by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL. At present the stamps upon newspapers are regulated by the 6th and 7th of William IV., c. 76, the schedule in which contains two sections, one of which defines as a newspaper "any paper containing public news, intelligence, or occurrences, printed in any part of the kingdom," and the second of which defines a newspaper to be any publication provided it is published "at intervals not exceeding twenty-six days," that it does not exceed certain dimensions, and is sold at a price not exceeding sixpence. It had always been thought that the first clause embraced every species of publication, but the Court of Exchequer put a construction upon the schedule which has somewhat surprised the legal profession generally, and which has been very much doubted. The Court of Exchequer held that the second section was restrictive upon the first, and that a newspaper, to come within the general terms of the first, must satisfy the exigencies of the second, as regarded dimensions and price, and the intervals of publication. The decision of the Court was upon the point as to whether a publication not published within twenty-six days came within the meaning of the act. That decision has been much doubted, and the opinion of the law officers of the Crown was taken thereon. If it were expedient, it would be their duty to have appealed against that decision, and to have taken it up for judgment to another court; but the Government think it is not desirable to go against the decision of the Court of Exchequer, and think it, on the contrary, better not to attempt to enforce the act in cases where publications are not issued within the period of twenty-six days. But then, with regard to the other two portions of the second section, there arises this difficulty—that if the second section, as the Court of Exchequer decided, be restrictive upon the more general section, then any newspaper exceeding the dimensions provided by the act, and sold at a price exceeding sixpence, would become altogether exempt from the necessity of paying any duty at all; and thus the larger newspaper would be exempted from duty, while the smaller newspaper would have to pay the duty. This would be a great injustice to the smaller newspapers; for to say that a newspaper like the *Examiner*, which is sold at 6*d*., should pay duty, while the *Spectator*, which is sold at 9*d*., was exempted, would be an injustice obvious to every one. It is proposed, therefore, to establish the law on a clear basis, and make it uniform with regard to all classes of newspapers, whether large or small, and at whatever price they may be sold. Without going into the policy or impolicy of the stamp on newspapers, it is clearly of importance that it should be applied on an equitable principle to all newspapers, whether large or small, and that is the object of the present measure.

Mr. GINSON said:—There are two Bills before the House applicable to newspapers. One of those Bills defines what is a newspaper chargeable with duty; but, in order to ascertain what that duty is, we must go to another Bill, called the Stamp Duties Bill. Now, the definition of what a newspaper is, and what duty is chargeable, ought to be found in the same Bill. The present is a most inconvenient course. The Chancellor of the Exchequer should put his proposal with reference to the duties and the supplements on newspapers into this Bill, so that we may have only one measure

to refer to. I am sorry that it was not thought fit to bring in a Bill upon this subject before parties were put to the expense of defending themselves in a court of justice. This is a bill for the protection of Mr. Dickens's publication, the *Household Narrative*, but the truth is that Mr. Dickens has already protected himself in a court of justice, where it was decided that his publication was not liable to duty. The proprietors of monthly papers, therefore, owe the Government no thanks, for they have already fought their own battle. I should like to know, before sitting down, whether the costs which parties have paid in defending themselves against these prosecutions would not be paid by the Government? When they exempt them from the stamp duty, it is but fair that they should be relieved from the heavy costs which they have incurred.

Mr. GLADSTONE stated that in the view of the Government there was reason to question the decision of the Court of Exchequer. In those circumstances Mr. Milner Gibson would see that it would be a most anomalous course for Government to pay the costs of the parties. With regard to the other suggestion, that the proposal as to the definition of a newspaper should be in the same Bill which regulated the charge of the duty, he thought there might be convenience in that course; and at any rate it would be considered. But, if it was to be done, the better way would be to import the few clauses of the present Bill into the Stamp Duties Bill.

The Bill was then read a second time.

BRITISH SHIPS AND BRITISH SAILORS.

The present law regulating the mercantile marine enacts, that the master, and, at least, three-fourths of the crew, must be British subjects. In the new Merchant Shipping Bill this regulation is proposed to be repealed; and the proposal has been earnestly combated. It was urged, that it was unsafe to place British ships and British cargoes under the charge of a motley collection of men of all nations; that it would prevent the mercantile marine from being, what it has been, a nursery for seamen; that it would bring down the wages of British seamen, by enabling shipowners to employ foreign competitors; that the reduction in the number of apprentices in our ships should warn us that we might want a supply of seamen (out of 414 emigrant ships which left our ports, 300 had no apprentices); that the inferiority of seamen's wages to the wages of other workers has also diminished the number of available hands; and that the recent rise in freights (from 5*s*. 6*d*. to 8*s*.) should make owners willing to give seamen the increased wages now accorded to other workers, instead of seeking to diminish their wages by bringing in the competition of foreigners. Captain SCOBELL led the Opposition in urging these arguments; and he was supported by Admiral WALCOTT, Sir GEORGE TYLER, Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, and Mr. HENTLEY.

In reply, it was pointed out, that as the British shipowner has been exposed, by the repeal of the navigation laws, to the competition of the whole world, he should be free to employ seamen of all nations. Any restriction imposes a heavy duty on the raw material of commerce—seamen. The repeal of the navigation laws, it was anticipated, would decrease the employment of British ships and seamen; but, on the contrary, British shipping has largely increased—the increase in the coasting trade being ten per cent.; and since the repeal 10,000 British seamen have been added to the merchant service. As to the merchant service, it is not now the nursery for the royal marine that it was formerly; the merchant seaman now never riggs or unriggs his ship; and by the use of steamers towing from port to port the number of smacks has been greatly reduced. Of the petty officers now in the royal navy but 285 are men from the merchant service, 1097 having been trained from boyhood in the navy. If we retain the useful practice of allowing ships of the royal navy to receive volunteers from merchant ships, it would be extremely unfair not to allow the merchants to replace them by foreign seamen. Otherwise the Queen's service and the merchant service will compete in wages for seamen, and the Queen will not get enough of men. There is no falling off in ship apprentices; there are 3731 for the first six months of 1853, against 3204 for the corresponding period of 1852; and the fear that the repeal of the navigation laws would injure the supply of seamen is disproved by the fact, that there are now 8000 men more available for the merchant service than there were in the year before those laws were repealed. The effect of the repeal now proposed will be, not that British seamen will be less employed—for his superiority to the foreign sailor will always obtain him employment; but that disgraceful desertions to foreign ports by British seamen will be effectually remedied. The chief speakers on this side of the question were Sir JAMES GRAHAM,

Mr. CARDWELL (in a clear, statistical speech), Admiral BERKELEY, and Mr. LIDDELL, the new Conservative member for Liverpool. On a division, the clause was carried by 142 to 36.

The claim for salvage by the Queen's ships was objected to by Mr. INGHAM. Sir JAMES GRAHAM made an eloquent defence of the institution. This matter of salvage is the common-law right of the British subject, recognised from the earliest times of history. Why should we debar the sailors of the Queen's ships from that right which had been enjoyed by them in common with all British subjects from the remotest period? We should calculate what the effect of withdrawing the reward would be. A commander of a ship could scarcely be blamed for hesitating to go to the rescue of a ship in danger, when he knew that, in the event of his losing his life in the attempt, his survivors would reap no reward for their gallantry. The amendment was then rejected by 131 to 20.

JUVENILE MENDICANTS.

The new bill providing that children caught begging or sweeping crossings in the streets shall be taken to the workhouse, and there supported at the expense of the parent, found an opponent in Lord CRANWORTH (Lord Chancellor). He objected that the children to be arrested were criminals, or quasi criminals, and that their introduction to the workhouse would make the workhouse distasteful to the public. But then what is to be done? They cannot be put in prison, and there is no other establishment for them. Therefore with the present machinery the bill cannot be carried out.

Lord SHAFTESBURY: It is perfectly preposterous to say that a child taken out of the street at six or seven years of age shall be a cause of disgust to the inmates of the workhouse, or that there should attach to the poor little thing the character of criminality. If we now give help to those poor little creatures sent to trade in crime and sin we shall find that within ten months the juvenile delinquents will have decreased fifty or sixty per cent. It has been objected that the workhouses will be overcrowded, but so many parents will withdraw their children from the streets that in all probability the law will not have to be enforced in more than fifty or a hundred cases in London. But in any case the measure is limited for the first six months to the metropolis, and if too many are crowded into the workhouses the Secretary of State can stop the operation of the bill.

An animated conversation followed. Universal approval of the object of the bill was warmly expressed. Many peers, among whom was Lord GREY, pointedly regretted the restriction of the bill to the metropolis, thus depriving the large provincial towns of its advantages. It was also emphatically asserted that the children thus taken up should not be considered as criminals, but rather as destitute orphans guarded by the State. The bill went through committee, and was reported to the House.

A bill of a kindred character has been introduced in the Commons by Mr. ADDERLEY. It proposes the establishment of reformatory schools in England and Wales for young offenders convicted before the magistrates. The bill was read a first time.

MEDICAL RELIEF FOR THE POOR.

The inadequacy of the medical aid supplied to the poor by the poor law organization has been discussed in an informal manner, Mr. MILES "calling the attention of the House" to the subject. The imperfect manner in which medical relief is administered is one of the few blot spots defacing an otherwise admirable system. The number of medical officers is nearer 4000 than 3000, and the average number of patients is 835,000. The only check upon the improper treatment of patients is the production of the case-books at the boards of guardians, but the guardians are incompetent to decide upon questions of disease, or the proper means to be employed for its alleviation. The expenditure under the head of "Extra diet" is a cover for abuse, and so also is the practice of allowing medical officers to eke out a scanty provision by the supply of medicine. To remedy these evils a medical inspector should be appointed; he should have power to send a sub-inspector, also a professional man, to inquire into any case of alleged improper treatment of paupers. And in future the boards of guardians should supply drugs, and then, in cases where it is necessary to administer expensive medicine, the medical officer would not be exposed to the temptation of sparing his pocket at the cost of his duty. Another desirable object is the extension of the system of medical relief to the sick poor. A vast extent of pauperism is caused by neglected sickness—the average wages of working men leaving them without the means of obtaining medical assistance.

The defence of the present system was undertaken by Mr. BAINES, President of the Poor Law Board. Since 1834 the medical relief given under the poor

law has greatly improved in amount and in kind. Even since 1838 the cost of medical relief has increased from 136,000*l.* to 212,050*l.*; the extra fees have largely increased, also the money expended in vaccination. The system of tenders has been abolished; medical districts have been abridged; higher qualifications in medical officers are required; greater responsibility is enforced, and better remuneration is given. Sir JOHN THOLLOPE also praised the Poor Law Board, and deprecated medical relief by that institution to persons—not "paupers;" it would discourage private benevolence and medical clubs.

Some conversation followed, and the subject was allowed to drop, Mr. MILES consenting.

TRANSPORTATION.

The new arrangements, regarding transportation, have been stated by the LORD CHANCELLOR. Western Australia, the only colony now open to our authority, can receive, annually, from 800 to 1000 convicts—no more. That number, then, represented the number of convicts who could be transported from this country. From those annually sentenced to transportation it would be necessary, therefore, to select the most criminal for actual transportation. Over 5000 persons, in the United Kingdom, are annually sentenced to transportation, and, of these, there are about 800 or 900 sentenced to terms of fourteen years or upwards. These, then, must be the persons remitted to Western Australia. With regard to those sentenced to lesser terms, they would, instead of the usual transportation and subsequent ticket of leave, have their sentences commuted, with reduction of the period, into penal servitude at Gibraltar, Malta, or Bermuda. Those who have been transported for ten years will have penal servitude for eight, and those transported for terms above fifteen years will have penal servitude for ten years. One good, at least, of the change will be that it will do away with all mystification. At present 5000 persons are annually sentenced to transportation, while it is well known that but 1000 can be transported.

LORD GREY wished to know what is to be done with those convicts who have entered such places as Portland, Dartmoor, and Bermuda, with the expectation of being relieved, after a time, from the severe servitude of those prisons. We will have 3000 or 4000 such persons to be disposed of, next year, and, at present, there are 1234 convicts who have expected to be relieved, in a certain time, from the continuous labour, the strict discipline, and the monotonous life of these places. The bill now before the House has a great defect. Under the old system, the Crown had the right of keeping in penal servitude any person transported, and the practice generally was to relieve well-conducted convicts, after four years of service. This had a very good effect in our modern prisons. But, under the new system, the term is fixed, and no matter how the convict conducts himself, he is to be released after a servitude for a certain term of years. The change from transportation to penal servitude for life, is likewise inapplicable with regard to persons sentenced to transportation for life. You cannot keep a man to penal servitude for life: the country would not endure it. The new system is also objectionable, as in it there is no room for the ticket of leave system.

Under the present system of transportation it had been found of the greatest advantage that convicts should not be discharged at once from a state of punishment to a state of unrestricted liberty. The system, therefore, was to place them under a modified state of freedom by means of what were called "tickets of leave." By bad conduct those tickets of leave could be at once withdrawn. That had been found to work well, and to have a very beneficial effect. Men with sudden and unrestricted freedom were much more likely to relapse into crime than men who enjoyed a restricted degree of freedom by means of tickets of leave. In a country so thickly inhabited as England was, it would be utterly impossible to enforce precisely the same regulations which were now adopted in the colonies as regarded tickets of leave; but it would not be at all impossible to devise means by which persons might be discharged from prison under conditions which would enable the Crown to remand them into custody if those conditions were broken. They might be required to live in some extreme part of the country, and to give an account to the police how they lived. An arrangement of that kind would be the means of building such persons to good bail, and during the present great demand for labour in the country it would not be serious to obviate some of the difficulties connected with the change from a system of transportation to one of imprisonment.

LORD BROUGHAM said he saw much good sense in the suggestion. The abolition of transportation is now inevitable, but, as a substitute, much might be done for improving the system of secondary punishments, by penal servitude in this country, coupled with something like the ticket-of-leave system. The new bill, instead of fixing four years penal servitude for offences now liable to transportation for seven years, should institute seven years penal servitude, with the understanding that, according to the conduct of the convict, the term would be reduced. But prevention should be the first

aim of a wise Government, and, as a means towards that, infant education and infant training was the most complete, the most radical preventive of crime, that could be imagined. Another means of prevention would be a secret police.

A secret police, consisting of intelligent, active men, so dressed as not to put intending criminals on their guard, having the whole body of offenders continually under their eyes, and well acquainted with all their persons and habits, would always prove the best possible preventive. Such a force would completely destroy all confidence and trust among criminals, and prevent the adoption and execution of any criminal plan calling for the exertions of more than one person. It might be said that there would be two objections to the establishment of a perfect secret criminal police such as he meant. The first would, no doubt, be the point of expense. But that would be cheerfully borne by the community. The other objection would be, that it would sow distrust among members of the community. His answer to that was, that it would only create distrust among the wicked towards their own accomplices.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE expressed a hope this bill was but the initiative of a course of legislation, part of which would include an improved education for the younger branches of this country. This hope induced him to believe that any inconvenience arising from the reduction of transportation would be obviated by remedial measures—among which Lord Shaftesbury's bill [on Juvenile Mendicancy] might be considered as a means of materially reducing the nurseries of crime in great towns. The remarks of Lord Grey and Lord Brougham on penal servitude were deserving of attention, especially the suggestion that the duration of the punishment should depend on the conduct of the convict. But penal servitude for a term of years, as long as to which persons had been transported, would be too onerous and severe for the endurance of criminals. Even the establishment of four years' penal servitude in lieu of seven years' transportation, would, in fact, be heavier than the terms of imprisonment hitherto usually substituted for that period of punishment. Lord Grey's suggestion of a ticket-of-leave system, carried out in this country, was being considered by the Government, and now that great public works were being carried on, it might be practicable. As to the operation of the present bill, there is plenty of room in the prisons for the convicts likely to accumulate.

LORD CAMPBELL hoped that new penal settlements would be established.

The bill was then read a second time.

RELIGIOUS TESTS IN SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES.

In lieu of the oaths now taken by office-holders in Scottish universities, professing conformity to the Westminster Confession, Government propose to substitute a simple declaration, by the Professor, that he will not teach anything contrary to the Holy Scriptures. Sir ROBERT INGLES denounced this, as contrary to the Scottish Union, as facilitating the preaching of anti-Christian doctrine from the chairs of theology, chemistry, and, above all, astronomy, by leading the students to believe in the perfectibility of man and in the boundless advances made by science, and by degrading religion to the level of science. Lord ELCHO replied that those tests were a snare, for they taught the church to look to legislative enactments for security, rather than to its hold upon the feelings and affections of the people, and they were a source of danger, as they embittered sectarian differences. The present law is also partially inoperative, as fully one-fourth of the Scottish professors have never signed the Confession of Faith. The Scottish universities are not appendages of the church, they are intended for the education of the people; they have no ecclesiastical features, except that they teach theology as well as any other science. These tests have been used to gratify sectarian animosities: for instance, when an attempt was made to turn out Sir David Brewster, as it was said, "for the glory of God and the benefit of the University." (Laughter.) The Scottish members do not oppose the bill, and one would think that Sir Robert Inglis would have quite enough to do in keeping out reformers from the University of Oxford. Lord DRUMLANRIG expressed a hesitating, and Mr. NEWDEGATE a decided dissent to the bill, the latter attacking it as "a bill for admitting infidels and papists to the Universities." Mr. LOCKHART followed in the same strain, and Sir GEORGE GREY defended the bill, which was read a second time, by 106 to 17. (During the discussion, Lord ELCHO passing justified the bill, by reference to the commissioners' report on the University of Cambridge, and Mr. HENLEY and Mr. NEWDEGATE expressed a fear that this indicated a similar attack on the English universities, as the portion referred to by Lord ELCHO "bore ominously" on the question, whether lay chairs should or should not be open to persons in communion with the Church of England.)

IRISH PRIESTS AT ELECTIONS.

The intimidation used by the Reverend John Burke

and the Reverend Michael Clune, was brought before the House by Mr. WILLIAM MILES (chairman of the late Clare Election Committee). The committee had reported, that one of the priests had excited the people to riot, and that the other had taken part in the riot himself. Father Burke was heard to say, "Fire, boys; rescue Keene's men;" and, "Boys, stand to your religion." Did the Government intend to proceed against those priests? Mr. MILES, as a member also of the Clare Committee, said, that so important a question should not be incidentally introduced. It was also a difficult and doubtful question; the evidence was perplexing, and, in many respects, contradictory.

LORD PALMERSTON, in reply, was adroit in his treatment of the point, and positive in a clear "pronouncement":—

"I own, sir, that it is a long lane which has no turning—even the longest lane has a turning; and I think that the longest bridge—even the Six-mile-bridge, ought to have an end. (Laughter and cheers.) It was the intention, as has been stated, of her Majesty's Government originally, that these two priests should be prosecuted for the conduct which they pursued on the occasion of the Six-mile-bridge affair. But the Irish Government, acting upon and with the advice of its legal officers, judged differently. It is, therefore, not the intention of her Majesty's Government to order any further proceedings upon this case. But I am bound to say, and I say it with great regret—but I am bound in sincerity to say it—that the conduct of many of the Catholic priesthood at the late election, some of the highest and some of the lowest rank, was such as I think must give great pain to all those who wish that the ministers of religion—be they Catholic or be they Protestant—should continue, by their conduct, to preserve that respect and deference which is essential to the due performance of their sacred calling. Things were said and done upon that occasion by Catholic clergymen which, if they had been said or done by Protestant clergymen in this country, would have raised a cry from the Land's End to John o' Groat's." Still I would conjure the House to draw a veil of oblivion over everything that then passed. I conjure them not to rake up animosities which are now calmed and extinguished. I should hope that these reverend gentlemen feel that the dangers which they anticipated had no real existence, and that they will reflect more seriously upon their position and their duties.

An irregular and protracted conversation, which LORD JOHN RUSSELL tried in vain to preclude, followed. Mr. HUME pointed out that there is nothing like the ballot for counteracting priestly intimidation. Sergeant SHEER excupulated the priests and attacked the Established Church; and Mr. LUCAS with vehemence justified the conduct of the priests as necessary to counteract the intimidation by the landlords.

He then mentioned how, at the former Sligo election, the agent of Lord Palmerston himself had used his lordship's name to influence the people to vote for a particular candidate.

LORD PALMERSTON explained:—

"I wrote to my agent stating that, so far as my wish was concerned, and those persons who felt disposed to attend to my wishes, my wish was that my tenants should vote for the two candidates then sitting—one of them being the honourable baronet and the other an honourable gentleman who lost his seat at the last election; but I also stated that those tenants were at perfect liberty to vote as they pleased—(cheers)—and that no consequences whatever should ensue to them if they did not vote in the manner I wished. (Loud cheers.) I have been credibly informed, and I have no reason to doubt the fact, that, when the candidate whom they supported was going into the town to be nominated, he was told that there were waiting for him, at his entrance into the town, a mob of 2000 people, headed by a priest with a double-barrelled gun." (Roars of laughter.)

Relieved but by the Home Secretary's liveliness, the discussion lasted drearily for two hours of Irish talk. It then dropped.

THE "MASSACRE" BEGUN.

Wednesday morning was distinguished by the decrease, with the consent of their parents, of three bills—on the subjects of "County Rates," "Probate of Wills," and "Church Simony."

For committee on the County Rates and Expenditure Bill a host of "amendments" had been intimated, chiefly by the Opposition; and giving this as a reason, its author, Mr. MILNER GIBSON, asked, was there any truth that Government, being in favour of the principle of the measure, are themselves about to bring in a bill to carry it out. LORD PALMERSTON, advising Mr. GIBSON to postpone the threatened weekly *conversations* on the bill, said that the Government assented to the principle of representation with regard to the county rates, and would bring in a bill on the subject next session. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON advised the Home Secretary to be "cautious," and not to prescribe for all England after a feeling that applied only to Lancashire. Mr. VINCENT SCULLY hoped the bill would be made to apply to Ireland.

The next suppressed bill was that on the probate of wills and grants of administration. Its leading principle is the establishment of an uniform probate for the United Kingdom. Mr. HADFIELD, the mover

of the bill, asked, would Government deal with the question? Lord PALMERSTON said, that this was but part of the general question of the ecclesiastical courts, which the Solicitor-General was to deal with next session. "But," said Mr. HADFIELD, "will the general measure include this particular point?" "I apprehend," said Lord PALMERSTON, "that any measure which deals with the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts must also deal with the probate of wills." And so Mr. Hadfield was satisfied.

The Church Simony Bill shared the fate of the other two. In vain did Lord GODERICH (on behalf of Mr. Phillimore) ask the House to consider how shameful it was to put up to auction the right to preach the Word of God—how offices in the law and civil service could not be bought—and how old, sickly men were appointed to livings that the next presentation might be profitably sold. Mr. GEORGE BUTT showed the House, that the right of lay impropriators to titles and advowsons is "sacred;" that it is a vested right; and that the present supervision of the bishops efficiently prevents the appointment of unfit persons as clergymen. Sir GEORGE GREY said, that he "could not see" why men should not buy the right of presentation as well as inherit it; and he condemned the bill as trifling and insignificant; it only prohibited the unfrequent cases of a laymen purchasing a presentation, that he might then go into orders and present himself.

Either these arguments, or the dulness of a morning sitting, influenced members to indifference; and seeing the general feeling, Lord GODERICH politely withdrew the bill.

MEMBERS' OATHS.—A new bill on this subject will be introduced, next session, by Lord JOHN RUSSELL. It will not be in the shape of a bill for the relief of the Jews, but in the shape of a bill to place the oaths upon a simple footing, doing away both with the religious intolerance and the practical absurdity of the oaths now taken.

THE CRIMINAL LAW.—The digest of the criminal code is being prepared, and by next session it is hoped it will be completed. Lord LYNCHURST has printed his bill on the subject, and the Lord CHANCELLOR has laid on the table of the House a digest of the laws relating to larceny.

BETTING-HOUSES.—The suppression of these institutions is contemplated by a new Bill just introduced. The keepers of such objectionable establishments, betting as they do with all comers, are distinguishable from places like Tattersall's, (where the betting is carried on with no person in particular,) because the Offices bank against all comers, and it is upon that distinction that the present legislation will be founded. It will prohibit the opening of houses, or shops, or booths for the purpose of betting, and as it appears that the mischief of the existing vicious system arises from the advancing of money in the first instance with the expectations of receiving a larger sum on the completion of a certain event, it is proposed to prohibit the practice by distinct legislative enactment.

INCUMBERED ESTATES IN IRELAND.—The Government Bill for the continuance of the powers of the Commissioners roused Mr. WHITESIDE to a protest against its being proceeded with at a late hour, but he offered to allow it to be discussed with his own bill. He also got angry, and accused the Government of never having introduced an original measure of law reform. Lord PALMERSTON quoted the learned gentleman by showing him that both bills could not be discussed side by side as proposed, unless the Government bill were read a second time. Mr. Whiteside's bill having reached that stage. The bill was then read a second time.

On the discussion of his bill for the reform of the COURTS OF COMMON LAW in Ireland, Mr. WHITESIDE made another display. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir A. Cockburn), simply suggested that some new clauses should be postponed for consideration, on which Mr. Whiteside sharply remarked that this was a measure of law reform, and that Ministers wished to obstruct it. Sir Alexander COCKBURN retorted with a calm rebuke, alluding to Mr. Whiteside's usual "indignation mixed with asperity," and reminding him that, though high in point of talent, he was not authorized in assuming that tone towards persons who, if not equal in ability, were at least his equals in conducting the business of the House. The clauses were then postponed.

LETTERS FROM PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LETTER LXXXI.

Paris, Thursday Evening, July 14, 1853.

BEFORE I come to the Eastern question, which continues to absorb public attention, let me give you a few additional details about the affair of the Opera Comique. The prospect of such an eventuality as was there threatened has terrified many good, easy folk, who fancied they had got into harbour, when they threw themselves into the arms of one man, and who now begin to perceive that monarchy has its dangers as the Republic has. Many people have returned to ideas more sane—I do not say more comfortable—on this subject, and already turn their faces to a future beyond Bonaparte. The very men of the Bourse have become more prudent and circumspect. They are disposed to restrict their operations, so that it becomes very unlikely that you will see any of those sudden and marvellous rises in public stocks, which deluded all the

world of speculation. A thousand rumours have been flying about this latest attempt. The first I heard was singular enough; it reported that the Empress had been secretly warned not to go to the theatre that day, and that the Prince de Joinville had written her a most romantic letter on the subject! It is also recounted, that the plot was only discovered a few minutes before the arrival of Bonaparte; and in the following manner. A police agent had recognised on the Boulevard a refugee from Brussels, whom he had long been on the track of. With the aid of other officers he arrested him, and took him off to the Opera Comique, where M. Pietri, the Prefect of Police, was already in waiting. The prisoner was searched, and a dagger and two pistols found upon him: thereupon, on the pretext that he was found with arms on his person, M. Pietri gave a feigned order to have him shot on the spot. The prisoner, little doubting that the Government of Bonaparte was quite capable of such a violation of the law, made up his mind to turn evidence of the conspiracy. In consequence of his revelations, M. Pietri instantly gave orders to watch and occupy the entrance of the Rue Marivaux, and to arrest all suspected persons; which was done just before Bonaparte appeared. Such are the flying rumours; and I think it right to add, that I don't believe a word of them. The one fact that is certain is, the arrest of three individuals in the Rue Marivaux, and the further arrest of eleven others, who tried to rescue them. This arrest took place before the arrival of Bonaparte, and was apparently caused by the obstinate determination of the three persons first arrested to stick close to the side door by which Bonaparte was to enter. This obstinacy was considered suspicious, and led to their arrest.

Such is the simplest and most authentic version of the matter. With regard to the plan of the conspirators, the versions are many and various. Their first intention, it is said, had been to fire upon the horses of Bonaparte's carriage as it passed through the Place de la Concorde; but on considering the difficulty of hitting horses at full speed from a distance, they abandoned that idea, and resolved to attack the Emperor in the Rue Marivaux, and to rush upon him in a body as he got out of his carriage. They were to resist with a discharge of musketry the police who might come up to the rescue of the Emperor: him they were to kill, and then to carry his body along the Boulevards, shouting *Vive la République*. On the Boulevards they were to have been received by their whole army brigaded, and then barricades would have sprung up on all sides. But it seems that we must ascribe a large proportion of these "facts" to the imaginative faculty of the inventors, and that the plot disguised another game under the republican mask. The *Independence Belge*, a journal usually pretty well informed, has the following remark on this subject:—"It appears to be apprehended in official circles that the demagogical attempt concealed a conspiracy of a different colour." Certain it is, whatever it may imply, that a number of priests have been arrested. More than four hundred working men have been arrested absolutely without rhyme or reason—without even a shadow of pretext, unless it were that they had been included in former and equally justifiable arrests. At the Tuileries, as you may imagine, the excitement was intense. It was for a moment seriously proposed to shoot at once the persons arrested, and this sweeping measure was only prevented by the suggestion of M. Fould, that perhaps it would be advisable to subject the prisoners to an examination, in order to extort from them all necessary information, especially the names of their accomplices. It was not until after many bursts of passion, and much violent recrimination, that this advice prevailed.

M. Brault was charged with prosecuting the examination. It is now reported that this officer is on the track of a vast organization, revealed to him as follows. One of the conspirators seized at the Opera Comique fell dangerously ill; he begged for a priest to come to him (some say this request proves that the man was not a Republican), and in the course of a confession to the priest avowed the plot, and demanded absolution; the priest replied that absolution must be conditional on his disclosing all particulars of the plot to a magistrate. The poor wretch was a little disconcerted at first by this proposal, but after a moment's hesitation consented. The result was that he made full disclosures to M. Brault. So runs the report. For my own part I beg leave to protest in the name of all my Republican countrymen, past, present, and to come, against such imbecility, even in *extremis*. A Legitimist may properly confess to a priest, a Republican never! It

* A government with so detestable and absurd an origin as this would surely have less chance of living even than the last abortive Hydra of a republic, or than the crowned Adventurism of the *coup d'état*.—ED.

is, however, perseveringly affirmed that M. Brault is on the scent of a vast conspiracy. We shall soon see. He regards the plot of the Opera Comique as intimately connected with the former affair of the Hippodrome, the first having been a sort of rehearsal or prelude to the second; in other words—the conspirators met at the Hippodrome more for the purpose of a muster of their forces than for any actual attempt. At all events on Wednesday next the conspirators arrested at the Hippodrome are to be tried; we shall then see what turn the affair will take.

Beyond this plot there is but scanty news. That estimable dowager Queen Christina, arrived in Paris on Monday evening last with her lover Monaldeschi—I beg pardon—with her husband Munoz. It is, I hear, in contemplation to marry young Napoleon Jérôme to one of the bastard daughters of Christina. Really there is no objection to be raised on the score of respectability. It is the common report in Paris. There has been a grave discussion at St. Cloud about the ceremonial to be observed towards the ex-queen. It wouldn't do at all for an Empress, the Empress of the first nation on the Continent of Europe, to be the first to pay the visit to a mere queen-dowager. On the other hand it would scarcely be fitting for an ex-Queen of Spain to be the first to pay a visit to one of her subjects. Bonaparte cut the knot; he went first to salute Maria Christina; and to-day, I am told, her most Catholic and virtuous ex-majesty, Maria Christina, is to pay a visit to St. Cloud.

St. Arnaud is still on a tour; on the tour of a bag-man I ought to say; he is travelling in the Bonaparte "line." You may have seen in your own daily papers how sedulously he puffed that very superior article, as of prime quality and perfectly genuine, to the Prince of Prussia, at Saarbrück. The interview was piquant enough by all accounts. St. Arnaud went to the quarters of the Prince, and then and there cavalierly expressed to his Royal Highness *his* (Leroy St. Arnaud's) displeasure at the attitude of the Northern Powers towards the Emperor of the French; "that it had not been all that we were entitled to expect towards the man who, by one bold stroke on the 2nd of December, consolidated every throne in Europe at the same time as his own personal power in France. St. Arnaud then proceeded to dilate upon the eventualities which might result from the return of the preceding state of things. It appears that the Prince did not himself reply to this point blank declaration of St. Arnaud; but M. d'Hatzfeld, the Prussian Minister at Paris, took that task out of his hands. In an audience which he solicited of Bonaparte, he assured the Emperor of the feelings of thankful acknowledgment with which all the Sovereigns of Europe were moved towards their defender!

I now come to affairs in the East. A new complication, which has arisen since my last, I mean, of course, the latest circular note of Count Nesselrode, has created some excitement in Paris. The petulant tone (*le ton cassant*) of this note, the recriminations against England and France, whom Russia accuses of being the instigators of her occupation of the Principalities, the threat not to evacuate those provinces until Turkey shall have made complete submission to the terms prescribed by the Czar, and the combined fleets shall have withdrawn from the Turkish waters; all this has alarmed beyond measure the debonair politicians who still believed in the duration of peace. Then, again, the dubious attitude (*l'attitude touchée*) of Austria, the violent seizure of the Hungarian refugee at Smyrna, within the Ottoman territory, in the evident intention of getting up a quarrel; the singularly unreasonable demand of M. de Bruck, who insists on Turkey giving up to her all the Hungarian refugees; exigencies which he puts forward with the threat of instantly breaking off all diplomatic relations in the event of their refusal; the march of a corps of 20,000 men to the frontiers of Serbia, the concentration of troops, in Croatia; the concentration into *corps d'armée* of the contingent furnished by Austria to the Germanic Confederation; all this betokens to the least farsighted the approach of the gravest eventualities. It is evident to the most dull of vision that Austria is preparing for war, and is ready to take sides with Russia, in the hope of a scrap of Turkey.

But if the impression created by this amazing insolence of Count Nesselrode's second note has been vividly felt among the people, it has been not less profound at the Tuileries. There it has almost bred a civil war. The Fould party and the Persigny party have had a grand battle of it: the one insisting that France was insulted by Russia, the other repudiating such an interpretation. The upshot, however, was, that the Emperor declared that "doubt was no longer possible, and that it was absolutely necessary to look to the means of checking the insolent encroachments of Russia." He drew up a note in this sense, addressed

to the English Cabinet. The same day came a note from London, announcing to Bonaparte that England, before finally resolving to proceed to action was anxious to await the result of the last attempts at conciliation. For it seems that the two Governments sent a collective note to the Czar Nicholas, in reply to the former manifesto from St. Petersburg. At Constantinople, meanwhile, the two ambassadors had assumed a similar position. They had obtained a promise from the Sultan not to demand the immediate succour of the combined fleets: whereupon they drew up a joint declaration for Turkey to sign, and which Austria would present to the Czar. If the Czar expresses assent to this document, Turkey will sign, and all will blow over. This news from Constantinople dates July 4th.

At the Tuileries, however, slight is the faith in the pacific dispositions of Russia. It is even said aloud, that "we should not be sorry to be released from all hesitations by the positive refusal of Nicholas."

In the meanwhile, the Czar is acting in Moldavia and Wallachia quite as if he were at home. The Russians have seized the post-office, and allow no letters to pass but those in his favour. In spite of their solemn protests, that they are not come to change the form of government, they have, in fact, forced the two Hospodars to delegate their powers to eighteen agents in Moldavia, and fifty-four in Wallachia. These delegates accompany the Russian authorities on all occasions; and it is Russia that rules—pulling the strings of a few dozen puppets! It is something more than an occupation: it is a veritable incorporation.

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CONTINENTAL NOTES.

IMPORTANT as is the present position of the Turkish question, little light has been thrown upon it by the news of the week from Constantinople. We look to St. Petersburg, to Paris, to Vienna, for intelligence rather than to the banks of the Bosphorus. Accordingly we reprint textually the last note of Count Nesselrode, by far the most insulting and mendacious of Russian diplomatic documents:—

"St. Petersburg, June 20, 1853.

"Sir,—My circular despatch of the 30th May last informed you of the rupture of our diplomatic relations with the Ottoman Government. It charged you to bring to the knowledge of the Cabinet to which you are accredited the grievances which we have suffered from the Porte, our fruitless efforts to obtain satisfaction, and the successive concessions which we made from a sincere desire to maintain good and friendly relations with the Turkish Government. You know that, after having renounced one after the other the idea of a guarantee obtained, under the form of a convention, ceded, or other synallagmatic act, we reduced our demand to the signing of a simple note, such as that the text of which we transmitted to you. You will have seen that that note, independently of the more particular dispositions relative to the holy places, contains in reality nothing else, as regards the general guarantee claimed in favour of the worship, than a simple confirmation of that which we for a long time possess. I pointed out to you that the signing of that document constituted in the eyes of the Emperor the only and real reparation that he can accept for the insult committed against him by the violation of the firman of the year 1852, as also of the personal promises which the Sultan had added. I added that such an act was moreover indispensable, because the granting of new firmans susceptible of being disregarded, as was the first, could not alone offer us a sufficient guarantee for the future. Finally, I did not dissimulate that if, after eight days reflection, the Ottoman Porte refused to accede to our demands, the Emperor would feel himself placed in the necessity of having recourse to obtain satisfaction to more decisive measures than a simple interruption of relations.

"In putting that ultimatum to the Porte, we had more particularly informed the great Cabinets of our intentions. We had notably solicited (*engagé*) France and Great Britain not to assume an attitude that would complicate the difficulties of the situation; not to take too soon measures which on the one hand would have the effect of encouraging the opposition of the Porte, and on the other would implicate still more than they were already the honour and dignity of the Emperor.

"I have the regret to announce to you to-day that that double endeavour has unhappily been in vain.

"The Porte, as you will see by the subjoined letter of Reschid Pacha, has made a negative, or at least an evasive, reply to the one which I addressed to it.

"On the other hand, the two maritime Powers have not thought fit to defer to the considerations which we recommended to their serious attention. Taking the initiative before us, they have judged it indispensable to anticipate immediately, by an effective measure, those which we had announced to them as simply eventual, as we made the execution thereof subordinate to the final resolutions of the Porte; and at the very moment I write, the execution of them has not yet commenced; they at once sent their fleets to the Constantinople waters; they already occupy the waters and ports of the Ottoman domination, within reach of the Dardanelles. By this advanced attitude the two powers have placed us under the weight of a compulsory demonstration, which, as we foretold them, must add new complications to the crisis.

"In presence of the refusal of the Porte, supported by the manifestation of France and England, it becomes more impossible than ever for us to modify the resolutions which the Emperor made dependent upon it.

"In consequence, his Imperial Majesty has just issued an order to the division of our troops stationed at the present moment in Bessarabia to cross the frontier, and occupy the principalities.

"They enter them, not to wage an offensive war against the Porte, which on the contrary we shall endeavour to avoid as long as we are not forced into it, but because the Porte, in persisting to refuse the moral guarantee which we had the right to expect, obliges us to substitute in its place provisionally a material guarantee; because the position which the two powers have taken in the ports and waters of his empire, in very sight of his capital, cannot be regarded by us, under actual circumstances, in any other light than a maritime occupation, gives us, moreover, a reason for re-establishing the equilibrium of the reciprocal situations by taking up a military position. We have not, however, any intention of keeping that position any longer than our honour or our safety may demand. It will be purely temporary; it will serve us solely as a pledge until better counsels shall have prevailed in the minds of the Sultan's ministers. Whilst occupying the principalities for a period, we disavow beforehand all idea of conquest. We do not pretend to obtain an accession of territory. With knowledge and will, we shall not seek to arouse any excitement among the Christian population of Turkey. As soon as the latter shall have accorded us the satisfaction which is our due, and when at the same time the pressure laid upon us by the attitude assumed by the two powers shall have been removed, our troops will return that moment within the Russian frontier. As regards the inhabitants of the principalities, the presence of our troops will not impose upon them any charges or additional contributions. The provisions they will furnish shall be paid for from our military chest, at an opportune moment, at a rate fixed beforehand with their Government. The principles and rules of conduct which we have prescribed in this respect you will find detailed in the annexed proclamation of General Prince Gortschakoff, in command of the troops of occupation, and which he was instructed to make public on his entrance into the two provinces.

"We in no respect dissimulate the great importance of the attitude which we take, and what the ulterior consequences thereof may be if the Turkish Government obliges us to make it leave the narrow and limited circle in which we wish to keep it. But the position in which it places us, by pushing matters to extremes, by refusing us every legitimate satisfaction, by not granting any concession whatever in return for all those which Prince Menschikoff gave successively on the form as well as on the original substance of our propositions, leaves us no alternative. There is more: the principles so peremptorily asserted, notwithstanding the moderation of the language in the responsive letter of Reschid Pacha, as well as in his note of the 26th of May last to the representatives of the four powers at Constantinople, would tend to nothing less, if taken at the letter, than to place in question all our acquired rights, to annul all our anterior transactions.

"In fact, if the Ottoman Government judges contrary to its independence and sovereign rights all diplomatic engagements whatsoever, even under the form of a simple note, in which it would be a question to stipulate with a foreign Government for religion and the churches, what becomes of the engagement which it contracted with us formerly under a far more binding form to protect our religion and its churches in its states?

"To admit so absolute a principle would be to tear up with our own hand the treaty of Kainardji, and all those that confirm it; to abandon, voluntarily, the right they conferred upon us to see that the Greek faith is efficiently protected in Turkey.

"Is it this that the Porte seeks? Does it seek to throw off all its anterior obligations, and to obtain from the present crisis the abolition for ever of a whole order of relations consecrated by time?

"Impartial Europe will understand that if the question is put in these terms, notwithstanding the most conciliating intentions, a peaceful solution would be impossible for Russia. For our treaties, our secular influence, our moral credit, our dearest sentiments both national and religious would be at stake.

"Let us be allowed to say it: the present dispute, and all the clamour given to it by the public press outside the Cabinets, rest upon a simple misunderstanding, or a want of attention to all our political antecedents.

"People seem ignorant, or it is lost sight of, that Russia virtually enjoys by position and by treaty the ancient right of surveillance for an efficacious protection of its worship in the East; and the maintenance of that ancient right which it cannot abandon is represented as implying a new pretension of a *protectorate*, religious as well as political, with an exaggerated idea of its bearing and consequences for the future.

"It is on this sad miscomprehension that the whole present crisis turns.

"The bearing and consequences of our pretended new political protectorate have no real existence. We only demand for our co-religionists in the East the strict *status quo*, the conservation of the privileges which they possess *ab antiquo* under the shield of their Sovereign. We do not deny that there would result for Russia what may be justly called a religious patronage. It is that which we have at all times exercised in the East. And if hitherto the independence and sovereignty of Turkey have found the means to reconcile themselves to the exercise of that patronage, why should they not both suffer them in future from the moment that our pretensions are reduced to what is really but a simple confirmation of them?

"We have said it, and we repeat it—it is no more the wish of the Emperor to-day than it was his wish in the past to overthrow the Ottoman Empire or to aggrandise himself at its expense. After the very moderate use he made in 1829 of his victory of Adrianople, when that victory and its consequences placed the Porte at its mercy; after having, alone in Europe, saved Turkey in 1833 from inevitable dismemberment; after having in 1839 taken the

initiative with the other powers in the propositions which, executed in common against, prevented the Sultan from beholding his throne make place to a new Arabian empire—it becomes almost fastidious to give proof of that truth. On the contrary, the fundamental principle of the policy of our august master has always been to maintain as long as possible the actual *status quo* of the east. He wished it, and still desires it, because such is definitely the best interest of Russia, already too vast to need an extension of territory; because, prosperous, peaceful, inoffensive, placed as a useful mediator between powerful states, the Ottoman Empire arrests the shock of rivalries which, if it fell, would clash to fight for its fragments; because human foresight vainly endeavours to discover the combinations best calculated to fill the vacuum which the disappearance of that great body would leave in the political balance. But if such are the real, avowed, sincere views of the Emperor, that he may remain faithful to them it is also necessary that Turkey should act towards us in a manner to offer us the possibility of co-existing with it. Let it respect our private treaties, and the consequences derived from them; let not acts of bad faith, secret persecutions, perpetual vexations against our worship, create a situation which, intolerable at last, would oblige us to trust the remedy to the blind chances of hazard.

"Such are, sir, the considerations which you are charged to point out to the attention of the Government to which you are accredited, by communicating the present despatch and the resolutions and intentions of his Majesty the Emperor. (Signed) "NESSELEODE."

In spite of this portentous epistle, the question of peace or war remains in abeyance. Rumours fit about to the effect that Austria, France, and England will present or have presented a joint note to Russia, offering such terms as both Russia and the Porte may accept with honour. We have no incontestable authority for this statement.

It seems quite certain that the combined fleets have not yet passed the Dardanelles; but the Turks continue their preparations. Prince Gortschakoff has announced the intentions of his master to the people of Moldavia and Wallachia. Here are some important passages in his proclamation:—

"We come among you neither with projects of conquest nor with the intention to modify the institutions under which you live, or the political position which solemn treaties have guaranteed to you. The provisional occupation of the Principalities which I am ordered to effect is for no other purpose than that of an immediate and efficacious protection in grave and unforeseen circumstances, when the Ottoman Government, distrusting the numerous proofs of a sincere alliance which the Imperial Court has never ceased to give it since the conclusion of the treaty of Adrianople, replies to our most equitable proposals with refusals, and opposes the most offensive suspicions to our disinterested advice.

"In his magnanimity, in his constant desire to maintain peace in the East as well as in Europe, the Emperor will avoid an aggressive war against Turkey, so long as his dignity and the interests of his empire shall permit him to do so. On the day on which he obtains the reparation which is due to him, and the guarantees which he has a right to claim for the future, his troops shall return within the frontiers of Russia.

"Inhabitants of Moldavia and Wallachia! I also execute an order of His Imperial Majesty in declaring to you that the presence of His Majesty's troops in your country shall not impose on you any fresh charges or contributions; that the forage and rations for the troops shall in due time, and at a rate appointed and agreed on in advance by your Governments, be paid for from our military treasury."

The famous Imperial manifesto has produced a great effect on the Russian people. When it became generally known, St. Petersburg illuminated; the mob danced madly before the carriage of the Emperor, and on their knees implored the blessing of heaven on the defender of their faith.

It still remains doubtful what course Austria and Prussia will take. The former power has garrisoned Peterwardein, and M. de Bruck is said to be making extravagant demands on the Sultan; and an incident has occurred at Smyrna throwing great suspicion on her. It is thus related:—

"Martin Kossta, a Hungarian refugee, and one of those exiles who accompanied Kossoth to America, had lately returned to Smyrna, where he had been sojourning, I believe, only a few days. Last Wednesday evening this man was seated in a café, close to the waterside, quietly smoking his narguileh, when just about sunset he found himself surrounded by an armed body of ruffians, who immediately laid hold of him. By a violent effort he flung two or three of these men into the water, and, finding no other means of escape, he himself sprang into the sea and swam towards a vessel, closely followed by his armed pursuers, who, quickly overtaking him, forced him, on pain of instant death, to surrender himself. He was then dragged into a boat, severely handled, and taken on board an Austrian brig-of-war (the *Hussar*), lying in the port, where he was heavily ironed. It was observed that about six of his captors remained on board the Austrian brig; the rest returned on shore. On the following morning the affair became generally known, and the American Consul waited on the Consul of Austria, saying that he understood that a native of Hungary, who had become an American citizen, had been taken by force on board the Austrian man-of-war, and he wished to see the man, and to ask for explanations. The Austrian Consul denied all knowledge of the fact. The American Consul then proceeded to the Austrian man-of-war, and requested an interview with the prisoner, which was refused; meantime the vessel was preparing to depart. Just at that moment an American corvette, commanded by Captain Stringham, sailed into the harbour. The Consul lost no time in acquainting the captain with the affair, when they both proceeded to the Austrian Consul and demanded an interview with the prisoner. The captain of the brig was pre-

sent at the time, and he hastened on board, followed shortly after by the American captain and Consul. The prisoner was brought on deck in irons. He was asked, 'Are you an American?' He answered, 'No; I am a Hungarian.' 'Have you an American passport?' 'No; I am a Hungarian, and I will die a Hungarian.' [He appears to have misunderstood the intention of the question.] The Americans then left the vessel. Seeing, after a while, however, that the Austrians were preparing to depart, the American captain sent word to say that, 'as they had on board a prisoner, carried off by force from a foreign independent territory, who had sworn allegiance to the Government of the United States, he should feel it his duty to insist upon the brig remaining under his guns until he received instructions from Constantinople, and that if any attempt was made to depart he would at once fire into the brig.' While all this was passing between Austria and America in the harbour, an immense excitement was created on shore. All the European merchants went in a body to Ali Pasha, the governor, and implored him to assert his rights, and resent the violation of the Ottoman territory. The Pasha in a great fright promised to write to Constantinople for instructions. The merchants then repaired to the Casino, which is the great reading-room, ball-room, and club, and they there passed the resolution of erasing the name of every Austrian from the list of members. But the eventful day was doomed to end in a still more tragic scene. Towards evening, in the midst of this state of public excitement, three Austrian officers had the hardihood to go on shore, and sit smoking in a café. They had not been long there before they were surrounded and set upon by about fifteen armed refugees, chiefly, I believe, Italians. The struggle was short; one fell wounded by a pistol shot, the other was stabbed, and jumped into the water, where he sank, and a third effected his escape in the confusion. On the following morning the body of the unfortunate and inoffensive young officer, Baron Adoberg, a young man of eighteen, was found, and on the same day buried. This affair has given rise to great excitement here, and to much diplomatic wrangling. The Austrian Ambassador, the Baron de Bruck, has demanded ample satisfaction of the Turkish authorities for the murder of the Austrian officer. Ali Pasha, the Governor of Smyrna, is replaced by another Pasha, late Governor of Rhodes. Several refugees have been seized, the guilty ones having, we believe, effected their escape. Meantime, Mr. Brown, the American Chargé d'Affaires here, addressed a note to M. de Bruck, demanding the release of Kossta. The Ambassador replied, in a note betraying some temper, that he could not take such a claim for a moment into consideration, since M. Kossta was a Hungarian, and consequently an Austrian subject, and that the Emperor of Austria had full power over his subjects in the Ottoman territory. Mr. Brown, in return, reiterated his demand, sending a copy of the oath which Kossta swore to in New York, in which he swore allegiance to the Government of the United States, and discarded all other allegiance whatever, especially that of the Emperor of Austria, stating his intention to become an American citizen. Thus far the affair has proceeded, the Porte having dispatched Cheikh Effendi to inquire further into it.

The *Morning Post* of to-day makes a positive statement as to the negotiations pending on the Eastern question:—"Firstly, there is a project specially emanating from our own Cabinet; secondly, there is a proposal which originated with M. de Bruck, and to which the assent of the Ambassadors of the Great Powers at Constantinople, as well as that of the Porte itself, has been obtained; thirdly, there is a plan to which France gives her assent only on condition of considerable modifications; and, fourthly, it is affirmed that the Cabinet of Prussia has also originated a project of arrangement. These, we have every reason to believe, are the various negotiations submitted to the Czar."

New impediments to a reconciliation between Austria and Switzerland have arisen. We are not informed of their nature. Some confirmation of the report is furnished by the fierce articles of Radetzki's paper at Milan; and the following resolution adopted by 53 to 20 in the National Council of Switzerland:—

"Resolved,—That the Federal Council shall be requested to abstain for the future from ordering the judicial and police authorities to expel persons who have not been proved to have violated the right of asylum, and whose conduct does not threaten to endanger the internal or external security of the Confederation."

The spirit of the Council is expressed in the opening address of the President M. Hungerbühler.

"If," said he, "notwithstanding the serious events which have occurred since our last meeting, in the canton of Ticino, to the detriment of the citizens established in Lombardy, and which occasioned a serious difference between the Federation and Austria, I am enabled to-day, at the opening of the ordinary session of 1863, to welcome you in the Federal city, it is thanks to your wisdom. The 75th article of the Federal Constitution invested you with the right of meeting in the interval. You did not avail yourselves of that right, and you previously ministered, with the people you have the honour of representing, to the relief of the unhappy brethren who, by an order of the Lombard Government, appreciated by the civilized world, were driven from their homes in the very heart of winter. You did not allow yourselves to be moved by the noise of arms which resounded on your frontiers, nor by the menaces of those who have neither learned nor forgotten anything, and who will only confess their error when an unjust attack directed against Switzerland will have kindled throughout Europe a general war. Full of confidence in the strength of our country, which should not be wasted before the hour in idle military demonstrations and in expensive arrays of troops, you allowed those whom the representatives of the people and of the cantons had placed at the head of the Government, to provide for all wants, and see no *quid detrimenti respublica capiat*."

The Emperor has granted a pardon to the Bishops

of Neusohl and Csana, who were in prison in consequence of the part they took in the Hungarian revolution of 1849.

The Grand Duke of Saxe Weimar expired on the morning of the 8th, in the palace of Belvedere, at Weimar, after a lingering malady. His successor, the Grand Duke Charles Alexander, announced the same day his accession to the throne by a proclamation, in which he declares that he will reign in conformity with the existing Constitution, and that he intends continuing in their places the various functionaries appointed by his august father.

The election of the General of the Jesuits took place at Rome on the 2nd. Father Becks, provincial of the province of Austria, and a Belgian by birth, was elected. Father Becks is the third Belgian that has arrived at this dignity. The other two were Father Mercurian (1575-1580), and Father de Noyelle (1682-1686).

A document has been published in Holland, which it is anticipated will much assist in putting an end to the difference with the Papal government. It consists in a note from Cardinal Antonelli, authorizing a modification of the oath required to be taken by the Catholic prelates, who have also permission accorded them to reside out of their dioceses.

The Envoy of the United States at Athens still insists on the annulment of the judgment which has been pronounced against Mr. King, the missionary.

It is said that the Grand Duke of Tuscany thinks of abdicating in favour of his son.

THE CAMP.

THE regiments primarily forming the camp have completed their terms of service. We record their latest doings. On Saturday, the troops descended into Catlin's valley, and assailed the heights on which the camp is placed. The light infantry under Sir De Lacy Evans, formed the left of the attacking force. Colonel Fane's brigade was in the centre, and the Household troops under Colonel Bentinck were to the right. Beyond them were posted four regiments of cavalry, and the Royal Horse Artillery. The front thus shown was upwards of a mile-and-a-quarter of an extent, and faced the camp at all points. At first they advanced without firing, but as they reached the foot of the camp hills the guns thundered, and the Light Brigade commenced a tremendous fusillade. The troops now presented a very fine appearance. The line of infantry consisted of nine of our finest regiments, with twenty field pieces in support; the cavalry of four regiments, with six guns in flank, and every man of the infantry and every gun of the artillery was pouring forth its thunders with unremitting energy. After a brief attack, it was determined to retreat. Lord Seaton is remarked for his skill in retreat. Every slope is taken advantage of, and becomes for a time a temporary, though almost impregnable fortress, and in his hands a hedge-row, or little paling, is rendered as formidable as a Burmese stockade. On Saturday he gave a most signal proof of his abilities in conducting the rapid retreat of an army across an unusually difficult country, which is so cut up with cart tracks as to be in some places quite impracticable to cavalry, and requiring great caution in walking even from the light infantry skirmishers. The retreat commenced with the light infantry division of General Evans, which, as it faced the quarters of the Guards, was much exposed on its right to the attacks of the enemy from the cavalry cantonnements. This brigade, after giving in two or three tremendous volleys, formed double columns of companies, and retired over the hills in the rear, taking ground towards the right of the position, and in the rear of the centre and right divisions. The cavalry at the same time broke up, and passed over the common in columns of troops, to be ready to advance and cover the retreat of the brigades, should it be necessary. The right division also moved back, covered by a heavy cannonade on the right. At this moment the whole line was in rapid but orderly retreat, when a halt was called, and the retiring regiments threw themselves into squares, with flanking companies thrown out on either side, and prepared to receive the enemy's cavalry, which were supposed to be advancing. After heavy file firing from the square, the retreat was again commenced, the cavalry advancing to cover the whole movement. From this time the light brigade bore the whole brunt of the day, and, with the cavalry, covered the retreat in most splendid style. For more than an hour this brigade was in incessant motion, one time forming squares to repulse the enemy's cavalry, the next deploying into line to check the infantry, and keeping up throughout a terrific fire.

The "sham" fight was stopped by a serious accident. Colonel Bentinck was thrown from his horse, and trampled on. He suffered a concussion of the brain, and one of the left ribs was fractured. He is now recovering.

On Monday a body of the troops proceeded to Virginia-water, and crossed it on pontoon bridges, previously constructed. Two artillery horses stumbled into the water, but nothing serious resulted. On recrossing, two regiments, the 93rd and 38th, were taken across on rafts, with remarkable despatch. The Duke

of Cambridge put the troops through several manoeuvres, on Smith's lawn. The troops present consisted of the 1st Life Guards, the 17th Lancers, the 13th Light Dragoons, and the 93rd and 38th Foot regiments. The men returned to the Camp at half-past five.

The Prince of Wales arrived at the Camp, at a quarter past three o'clock, in an open carriage and four. He alighted first at the Queen's pavilion, presently afterwards re-entered his carriage, and drove along the Cavalry quarters, returning along the line of the Guards' encampment until he arrived opposite to the quarters of the Scots Fusilier Guards. Here he alighted and inquired for Sergeant-Major Edwards, the non-commissioned officer who has the honour of instructing the young princes in their practice of gymnastic exercises. The Sergeant-Major was soon in attendance upon his pupil. The Prince asked the Sergeant to conduct him to his tent. His royal highness minutely inspected its internal arrangements; and, after thanking his gymnastic preceptor for his attention, presented him with a handsome gratuity. The Prince next inspected the Camp kitchens of the Scots Fusilier Guards, and after tasting the soup at one of them, presented the corps with a sovereign. He then paid his respects to Colonel Francis Seymour, Esquerry in Waiting to his royal father, who holds a command in this regiment, on taking leave of whom his royal highness drove along the whole line of the encampment, visiting the quarters of the Sappers and Miners *en route*, and returning down the main streets of the Camp amid the hearty cheers of the private soldiers. He drove back to the Queen's pavilion, but did not alight, and left the ground on his return to Windsor at a quarter past five o'clock.

On Tuesday the troops manoeuvred in Catlin's valley. Lord Seaton has addressed to the troops a communication. He expresses satisfaction with their good conduct and discipline, especially as "it could scarcely have been expected that so few instances of irregularity would have occurred among so large a number of troops for the first time encamped." The results of the encampment must be, he adds, as highly gratifying to the officers commanding corps as to himself. "They have ascertained how well prepared their respective regiments are to act with all arms, and on any service on which they may be employed. The reports and observations which they have submitted in respect of improvements in arms and equipments, will contribute to increase the general efficiency of the army, and the individual comfort of the soldier."

On Wednesday the troops rested.

On Thursday a change took place. Some new regiments now occupy the ground vacated by others, re-mitted to various country quarters.

The Royal Horse Guards have taken the ground of the 1st Life Guards; the 2nd Dragoons (Scots Greys), that of the Carabiniers; the 4th Light Dragoons, that of the 13th Light Dragoons; the 8th Hussars, that of the 17th Lancers. The Brigade of Guards occupy their old ground. The 7th Fusiliers occupy the ground of the 38th regiment; the 35th Regiment, that of the 93rd Highlanders; the 19th Regiment that of the Rifle Brigade. The 79th Highlanders occupy the ground of the 42nd Highlanders; 88th Regiment, that of the 50th Regiment; and the 97th Regiment, that of the 95th Regiment. The Royal Artillery occupy the old ground.

The following order, making some changes in the Brigadier-Generals, has been issued from the Horse Guards:—

"Lieutenant-Colonel Dupuis will command the Royal Artillery, consisting of one troop of Royal Horse Artillery and three field batteries; Colonel Thornton, of the Grenadier Guards, will command the brigade of Foot Guards, consisting of the 2nd battalions of the three regiments; Major-General Sir Richard England will command the first brigade of infantry, consisting of the 7th, 19th, and 35th Regiments of the line; and Colonel Lockyer, of the 97th, will command the 2nd brigade, consisting of the 79th, 88th, and 97th Regiments. Major-General His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge will continue in command of the Cavalry, which will consist of the Royal Horse Guards, the 2nd Dragoons (the Queen's), the 4th Light Dragoons (the Royal Irish), and the 8th Hussars (the King's Royal Irish)."

The Duke of Cambridge dined with the officers of the cavalry brigade on Wednesday evening. He made a speech, and praised highly the several corps. "While repudiating any desire for war, he had satisfaction in knowing that he might have the command of such men on actual service."

REFORM OF THE NAVY.

THE Government measures for improving the navy provide both for the enrolment of volunteers and the judicious arrangement of the men on service. The Admiralty is to be empowered to raise a force not exceeding 10,000 men, to be called the "Royal Naval Const Volunteers." They are to be entered for five years, and may be trained and exercised for twenty-eight days in

each year. In case of invasion or imminent danger, the Queen may order the volunteers to be called into actual service; and during exercise and actual service the men are to have the pay of able seamen. In case of emergency, the officers and men of the Coast Guard and seamen riggers may be required to serve in the navy for a limited period; and upon invasion or danger, seafaring men in public departments are to be called to temporary service in the navy. There are certain penalties set forth; and it is provided that persons not attending when called into actual service may be apprehended and punished as deserters from the royal navy. It is also provided that the volunteers who may be called into actual service shall not be liable to be sent beyond 100 leagues from the United Kingdom, and that the term of their actual service shall be one year, subject to being extended to two, by a royal proclamation.

The late Admiralty regulations of giving increased pay and other advantages to men and boys entering the navy for continuous service are confirmed by a new bill. Every boy under eighteen years of age, entering the navy, shall be liable to serve until he be twenty-eight years of age, and every person above eighteen, for ten years' service from the time of entry. In future every man detained after the expiration of his term of service in cases of emergency will receive two-pence per day extra pay. The double bounty is repealed, and the rates of bounty, and the increase for early entering, &c., are to be fixed by royal proclamation. The provisions of the act of William IV., limiting the term to five years' service, are repealed, with a saving clause in favour of the men at present entered under those conditions. The service of seamen may be extended by royal proclamation, and they may be required to serve for a further period of five years, if so long required, and for such extension are entitled to a bounty, to be fixed in the proclamation. Powers are reserved to the Admiralty to discharge men, and those entered for continuous service will be entitled to pay while in sick quarters. Men absent for forty-eight hours without leave forfeit their pay during their absence, and desertion may be punished summarily by officers commanding any ship with six months' imprisonment. Persons making fraudulent representations on entering may be punished as rogues and vagabonds. The powers of courts-martial are extended over persons in full pay of the navy for offences committed in the dockyards or victualling yards. The railway companies are to convey naval forces upon the same terms as the military and police. Provisions are also made for the payment of sums due to the relatives of deceased seamen.

While our present sea force is thus being improved in spirit and efficiency, the preparations for building a new screw fleet are being actively carried on. The following is a statement of the ships, with an account of the ports at which they are to be built:—

LINE-OF-BATTLE SHIPS.			
Conqueror.....	100 guns	Devonport.	
Hero.....	90 "	Chatham.	
Bepulse.....	90 "	Pembroke.	
FRIGATES.			
Forte.....	50 guns	Deptford.	
Topaze.....	50 "	Devonport.	
Aurora.....	50 "	Pembroke.	
SCREW CORVETTES.			
Pearl.....	20 guns	Woolwich.	
Eylades.....	20 "	Sheerness.	
Esk.....	20 "	Millwall.	
SCREW SLOOP.			
Fawn.....	16 guns	Deptford.	
Falcon.....	16 "	Pembroke.	
Ariel.....	8 "	Pembroke.	
Total addition to the screw fleet, 12 ships, to mount 530 guns.			

THE FARMER AND HIS FRIENDS.

The "agricultural interest," no longer a political cry, makes practical demonstrations in fine shows and sensible speeches. This year's exhibition of the Royal Agricultural Society has been held at Gloucester with increased success. The reaping machines have contested as before, there being many in the field, and though Hussey's from America, and Bell's from Scotland, are noted as good, the prize is not yet awarded. A new invention that appeared was "an automaton arm," to make the reaper deliver corn in sheaves; it failed, but promises satisfaction. In portable steam-engines the great object is to reduce the consumption of coal in proportion to the power, and the point just now reached is 4.32 lb. per horse-power per hour. Improved ploughs, drills, scarifiers, turnip setters, clod-crushers, and even some digging machines, show that machinery is being rapidly brought to replace the labour removed by emigration. It is complained, however, that the machines exhibited are of a kind and price more suited to large landowners, and to the managers of model farms, than to the smaller tenantry who have neither mind or money to appreciate them. In the cattle show the new rule of the society "dis-

qualifying for over-fatness" has worked well, though the evil is as yet not thoroughly abated. The pigs were still too fat, and so were the Cotswold sheep. Respecting the latter the society is accused of having made a mistake through prejudice. It puts the Cotswold sheep, as "long woolled sheep," in competition with the Leicesters, when in fact it ought to recognise them as a distinct variety of stock. The general character of the show is thus summarised:—"The short-horns make no great show, the Dextons are very good, the Herefords fair, and the Welch very poor, the Southdowns, Shropshires, and Cotswolds excellent, but the last named too fat. The Leicesters do not come up to the usual standard of merit. There is nothing very striking about the horses exhibited, but the Suffolks bear the palm away, and the display of Welch ponies is very inferior to what was expected."

The usual dinner of the society was distinguished by some very useful and agreeable speeches. Mr. Ingersoll, the American Minister, expressed a hearty applause of agriculture, "as not only the most ancient but the most honourable and useful employment of our race," and as "the bond of union" between America and England in the exchange of their respective productions. He referred to the capability of English soil to support more than it now maintained, but if not "there is plenty of room in America, where you will receive a hearty welcome." Lord Ashburton, who presided, was most eloquent and instructive in praise of agriculture. We quote his speech in full:—

"I feel proud of having my name connected, even for a day, with a society which has done so much for agriculture—so much for England. Other societies have risen before to beg or to extort assistance from the authorities of the day. They have passed away with the occasion that gave them birth, without leaving a trace of their existence. This society has been founded upon the principle, that 'God helps those that help themselves.' We have left Governments to do their best or to do their worst. In spite of heavy blows and some discouragements, we have kept our shoulders to the wheel; and God has so blessed our efforts that now, at this time, if you were to ask any one of the distinguished foreigners that honour England with their presence, what produce of British industry is most unquestionably superior to the produce of the rest of the world, what is the produce of Great Britain which gives him the highest idea of the judgment, ingenuity, and practical skill of Englishmen, he would tell you that he has seen better silks in France, more beautiful cottons in Switzerland, that we are losing ground in edge tools and cutlery, that America equals, if not excels, us in ship-building; but that there is one kind of British produce, the excellence of which no other country can approach—one kind that men flock from all countries to see and admire, and purchase at fabulous prices—and that produce is the produce of the British farmer. (Loud cheers.) He would tell you further, that whilst Manchester and Spitalfields, and Stoke-upon Trent, and our other hives of industry, are wont to call in Frenchmen, Germans, and Italians, to assist, direct, and instruct them in the higher branches of their several arts, the inhabitants of the world come to us to learn farming. (Cheers.) But I am not satisfied with merely claiming the palm for our produce. I venture to assert that the farmer has far greater difficulties to contend with in his calling than any other producer—that his contest with those difficulties employs, cultivates, and develops more energy, more courage, more resource, more practical wisdom, than is created by any other industrial pursuit. Take, for example, the case of the cotton-spinner. He buys his machine—puts his wool or cotton in at one end, to take the finished article out at the other. He undergoes no risk, no anxiety; he deals, indeed, with the powers of nature, but powers delivered into his hand, controlled, mastered and domesticated by his machinery. The farmer also deals with nature, but with nature in her wildest and most wayward moods; he has to encounter her in the tempest, in the burning drought, in the overwhelming flood, in the plague of insects. The qualities required of him are those of one who navigates his vessel amidst the storms of the Atlantic; the qualities required of the other are those of the captain of a barge, towed upon the peaceful canal. The consequence is, that the farmer of the present day is no more like the farmer of yore than the steamship, that forces its regular passage in spite of wind and current, is like the tub-shaped galliot of old, that lay-to in every head wind, and made one voyage a year. Like the steamer, you have learned almost to defy the elements. (Cheers.) It is true you cannot stop the deluge of rain, but you drain off superfluous moisture—you cannot prevent drought, but you give such a crumb to the surface of the soil by your implements, such a strength to the crop by your manures, as to defy it—you cannot arrest the plague of insects, but you hurry the growth of the turnip by artificial means, and raise it out of their reach—you have invented breeds of beasts and sheep to make beef in twenty months and mutton in fifteen—(Cheers)—you have called the steam-engine in to do your work—in short, you have raised agriculture from being a mere empirical pursuit to become a master science—a dominant art, rallying under its guidance, in subordinate co-operation, the labours of the chemist, the physiologist, and the mechanic. The result is, that we farmers of England, thwarted by nature as no other industry is thwarted—smarting under heavy blows and sore discouragement experienced at the hands of man, have, by skill and perseverance, elevated our calling to the highest rank of industrial pursuits, and have done more to illustrate the skill and ingenuity of England than any other profession. The result is, that we, who have made great and generous sacrifices to the public good, have made more progress

even than those on whose behalf those sacrifices were made. (Cheers.) Now, gentlemen, why do I insist upon this? It is not to flatter those entitled to this praise. It is to stimulate the backward, to shame those who still cling to the antiquated practices of their forefathers, who, in the midst of light, still live in darkness. What is to be done with those who, with our show stock before their eyes, go on roaring bony scraps of beasts that no feeding can fatten, who, with our prize implements before their eyes, do that still by hand which they could do cheaper with machinery, who allow the runnings from their fields to wash the goodness out of their yard into the pond that gives drink to their cattle, whose horses are half-fed, whose fields are undrained, whose crops are unhoed, who reap as much weed as wheat. (Cheers.) Depend upon it the days of those men are numbered; they are condemned, not by the law of man, but by the law of God—by that law which he has made to regulate the growth of all that has life, by that law which speaks out to them in their fields, in their woods, that the plant which stops in its growth is first hoaxed, then stifled. (Cheers.) The lagging farmer can no more hope to be exempted from this doom than he can hope at his will to add a cubit to his stature. I fear, gentlemen, that I have wearied you—(No, no)—but allow me, before I close, to address a parting word to the landowners. They also must perform their part. If they do not wish to see their lands desolate they must put up suitable buildings for their improving tenants; but, above all, they must prepare betimes to meet that great, that happy change, which is taking place between the labourer and his employers; a change which I have earnestly wished for; a change which, I thank God, I have been permitted to see, for it will raise the labourer from serfdom to the independence of a free man. It will awaken into a new life of energy and usefulness that sluggish indifference into which his hitherto degraded position has cast him, and he will henceforth be a better workman, better parent, better citizen. (Cheers.) This only was wanting to fill up the measure of blessings which Providence has showered over our country; but then we land-lords must be prepared to meet this new emergency. It is no longer our business to seek, by emigration, to keep down numbers within the limits of employment. It is now our pleasing care to retain the energetic, the active, and the industrious, by increased comforts and by improved cottages close to their work. (Loud cheers.) So only can we render the home of their forefathers more attractive to the labourer than the gold fields of Australia, or the increasing wages of the manufacturing districts. But I will no longer linger upon this grateful subject, which will be far better treated by my noble friend, Lord Harrowby, who will give you the toast of 'The Labourers.' (Cheers.) Permit me to thank you for the kind attention with which you have heard me, and to drink to your health and welfare." (This spirited speech was heartily cheered.)

Lord Harrowby, in proposing "The Labourers," was warm in his hearty wishes for their improvement, and hopeful in anticipating good for them out of the new circumstances of agriculture. In disproof of the belief that machinery displaced hand labour he said:—

"I recollect a remarkable instance to the contrary which occurred in the beautiful vale of the Severn. I recollect where a farmer in the vale of Evesham employed ten men on his farm before the introduction of improvements; he employed thirty or forty afterwards, when he was using every kind of improvement in agriculture. We also find that where a district is backward in improvements of this kind there is to be found an idle, pauperised, and vicious population. It stands to reason that if we have activity, if we have enterprise, if we have wealth and intelligence employed by the masters, it is inevitable that these qualities will redound to the benefit of the employed. There is no fear that labour will be superseded, but the result of these improvements will be that the agricultural labourers will become a higher order of men, and instead of expecting a labourer to be a mere mechanical animal, they will be obliged to have one of a more refined understanding—one who will be able to deal with an implement from hand to hand. Let us not then be jealous of education; let us not be jealous lest our labourer's child should get an education equal to that of our own. The Scotch are the best educated of the labouring classes, and they are notoriously the most industrious men in the British dominions. Men are not more idle or less useful because their labour is directed by intellect; and if we give them more comforts the advantages will not be limited to themselves, but would be participated in by the employer. They will not be less faithful servants if we supply schools for them to attend in the evening, instead of spending their time in the alehouse. Very little attention has hitherto been paid to their comforts. They are ill lodged and cared for, but attention has lately been turned to this subject, and the seed which has been sown had borne very good fruit. But in all these things, with regard to land, we cannot expect to attain the same rapidity of improvement which has been accomplished in manufactures. We have not the same amount of floating capital at our command as the manufacturers, and our improvements are adopted with caution, and slowly. But although the improvements in agriculture are not so rapid as in manufactures, the results of the last ten years are most sensible. The labourers of this country always show great kind-heartedness; they possess gratitude and good nature, and mutually help each other. Let us not judge too harshly of their conduct towards their employers; men are too apt to expect from others more than they give to them, and employers too much expect from the labourer that he should show an amount of self-devotion to their interests which, when they no longer needed the labourer's help, they are not themselves apt to display."

"The health of Judge Halburton" having been proposed by Sir Roderick Murchison, the author of *Sam Slick* rose and spoke with great pith and humour.

"My friend who proposed my health did me the honour to name some of my books. (Loud cheering.) Though I cannot say I have contributed anything to your exhibition in the shape of models, yet there is a little wooden clock which I have exhibited to the country containing sundry moral lessons, which, I hope, have done some good; and I think I may say I have been an ungrateful man, and as vain and conceited as ungrateful, if I did not say it, that I am proud those lessons have been read and approved by the farmers in England as well as in my own country. (Loud cheers.) I have not the honour to be an Englishman—I am a native, and an inhabitant of another part of the world. More than 150 years have elapsed since my forefathers left this country. Whether they slipped away at the time of the assizes—(Immense laughter and cheering)—or whether one of my cloth helped them off at the public expense—(Renewed laughter)—there is nobody old enough now to say, and perhaps it is as well not to be too strict in the inquiry. (Cheers and laughter.) It is a long exile, though his Excellency the American Minister talks of your emigrating to his country. For my part, I should like to emigrate back again. (Cheers.) That would be my delight and happiness; and I am not sure but that, if one of my brother judges would undertake to sentence me to transportation to England, I might be willing to be brought before him—(Laughter)—always provided that I had committed no moral fault. I never spent two such delightful days in my life as I did yesterday and to-day, in Gloucester, witnessing this exhibition. As a practical farmer, fond of the cultivation of the soil, I came up from the north, where I was on my way to Scotland, for the purpose of being present here, and witnessing the improvements that have taken place during the last ten years. And it gives me great pleasure that, without attempting to say anything civil or to flatter, I can bear my testimony that within the last ten years the improvement has been beyond everything that can be conceived. The improvement in the class to which Lord Harrowby has referred—the lower orders—is perhaps greater than has taken place in any other class. They are better fed, better clad, better paid, and they respect themselves more. (Loud cheers.) Let me mention one instance where, as a traveller, I see a great improvement. In St. James' Park in London I saw a notice something to this effect, 'The public are requested to protect the birds and trees in these plantations.' No man traps and spring guns there. [Great laughter and cheering.] That one fact speaks volumes; and at Loughborough, the other day, I saw a similar notice—'These grounds are for the benefit of the people, and the people are requested to protect them.' (Cheers.) This is an evidence to me that the people have learned to respect themselves, and that they are worthy of the respect of their superiors. It is a gratifying fact that it should be so. Now, look to this question, on which we have all been engaged to-day—the examination of implements. I see no prejudice now against the use of machinery, as if machines would take away the labouring man's bread. Thank God, that day has gone by; and, thank God for another thing—the day of the demagogue has gone by, too; his occupation is gone, for he has no lazy, idle, pauper population to talk to, and therefore he can do no mischief. (Cheers.)"

In such happy expressions of good feeling the evening passed away, and the pleasant and friendly sayings were well mixed with practical advice.

BURMAH REJECTS PEACE.

NEGOTIATIONS with Ava have been terminated by the Burmese Envoys refusing to sign the treaty proposed to them by the British, and declaring that they would not sign away any part whatever of the Burmese dominions. They were ordered to reconsider their answer, or to leave our new territory within twenty-four hours. They left it in ten hours.

It is said that Lord Dalhousie does not intend taking any other steps beyond extending the frontiers, and appropriating the country seized. Should an attack be made on the outer territory an immediate advance will be made on Ava, and the King dethroned.

CHURCH SIMONY.

THE following Bill is that which was presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Phillimore. It has been rejected; but some of our readers will like to see the text of the propositions. The enacting clause is as follows:—

"That if any person, from the time of the passing of this Act, shall or do, for any sum of money, reward, gift, profit, or advantage, directly or indirectly, or for or by reason of any promise, agreement, grant, bond, covenant, or other assurance of or for any sum of money, reward, gift, profit, or benefit whatsoever, directly or indirectly, in his own name or in the name of any other person or persons, take, procure, or accept the next avoidance of or presentation to any benefice with cure of souls, dignity, prebend, or living ecclesiastical, and shall be presented or collated thereupon, that then every such presentation or collation, and every admission, institution, investiture, and induction upon the same, shall be utterly void, frustrate, and of no effect in law, and such agreement shall be deemed and taken to be a simoniacal contract; and that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Queen's Majesty, her heirs and successors, to present or collate unto or give or bestow every such benefice, dignity, prebend, and living, ecclesiastical for that one time or turn only."

A CLERGYMAN SUSPENDED.

THE Bishop of Durham has suspended a clergyman. The Rev. J. H. Blunt was in deacon's orders, and applied to be admitted to the priesthood at the bishop's

recent ordination. All his necessary papers were lodged for that purpose. Just before the day appointed for the ceremony, some of the congregation of Tyne-mouth Church memorialized the bishop, stating that the Rev. J. H. Blunt, their curate, was in the habit of preaching the doctrine of the mass, had exaggerated authority of the Church and her ministers, had insisted upon the evils resulting from the exercise of private judgment, the power of remission of sins vested in the clergy, and the doctrine of transubstantiation; and that, moreover, on one occasion he inculcated the practice of having the cross upon the altar, and wearing it upon the person. They proceeded as follows:—

"The manner in which Mr. Blunt performs the services appears to us to be Romish. Previous to entering the reading desk, Mr. Blunt makes a bow or genuflection to the communion table, and on leaving the reading desk, to assist the vicar in the communion service, he makes a similar genuflection on passing through the entrance to the communion table. He then takes his place, not at the south side of, or near to the table, but remains at the lower step on the south side of the raised floor in front of the communion table, where, prior to a short prayer, he makes another genuflection, and whilst praying he kneels with his back to the congregation, and on rising from the prayer, he remains on the same spot, standing with his back to the congregation, never approaching the table, and only turning round whilst reading the Epistle; and on the conclusion of the service he again bows to the table previous to leaving the church."

Mr. Blunt denied having preached Romish doctrine, and submitted his sermons. The bishop acquitted him of this charge, but alleged that his language was "mystical and confused." The result is, that the bishop has suspended the reverend gentleman from taking priest's orders for the period of twelve months.

WORKMEN AND WAGES.

THE Kidderminster carpet weavers are still out on strike, demanding the slight addition of 1d. per yard to their poor wages. They have received some aid from the Birmingham operatives, and also from the tapestry weavers of their own town. (The handbills they print are written in a foolish spirit of invective against "the rich.") The joiners of Ashton-under-Lyne moderately demand an advance of 1s. per week wages, and a reduction of worktime by half an hour. Both are refused, but the Glossop concession indicates their final success. At Stockport, the weavers and spinners, though hard pressed, still hold out, encouraged by the separate concessions of some of the masters. But the main body of the masters are highly displeased, and have combined in an association to resist the present and future movements of the men. In London, many workmen connected with the building trades have struck for higher wages, as yet without success. The Rochdale weavers and piecers have obtained an advance of 12½ and 10 per cent. The London plasterers and painters have also obtained a slight advance.

Police-men's wages are evidently sharing in the general advance of the emoluments of working-men. The South Shields town council have determined to advance the wages of the men in the police force in that borough 2s. per week. The Tynemouth town council have also resolved to adopt the following scale of wages to be given to the police force in that town:—Sergeants, 23s. per week; first-class men, 21s. per week; second-class, 19s. per week; third-class, 17s. per week.

A Leicester paper records—"There is not at this time a single able-bodied man in our workhouse; and the number of able-bodied women is so small that the master's journal continually contains such reports as this:—'The master was obliged to hire a washerwoman for three days.' But this is not the worst. The master begs the guardians to allow the old men above 60 half-a-pint of ale per day to coax them into working at the pump, for, says he, 'we are so put about.' This said pump used to be the principal labour-test for the able-bodied men in the house, and was the terror of the idle disposed among them. However, it is now worked principally by the salaried officers of the house."

SHAM NOBILITY.

TITLES and honours have become so cheap in France that their sale has been attempted as an open commerce.

The Tribunal of Correctional Police, at Paris, have tried a person calling himself Prince de Gonzague, Duke de Mantua, for swindling, illegally wearing decorations, and remaining in France, though a foreigner, after an order had been given for his expulsion. Amongst the titles he gave himself were these:—Alexander Andrew, Prince of Gonzague and Castiglione, sovereign and legitimate Duke of Mantua, Guastalla, Pozzoli, and Solferino, Marquis of Luzzara, Count of Alessandria de Murzynowski, Baron of Nemtadt, Grand Master of the Order of the Redemption, of the Order of the Immaculate Conception, of the Order of Devotedness, of the Feminine Order of Maria Elisa of Mantua, of the Order of the Four Emperors, of the Order of the Lion of Holstein, and of the Feminine

Order of Saint Elizabeth of the Visitation. He also, at times, represented himself as a general of cavalry, an officer of the Legion of Honour, a knight of the Order of Stanislaus and St. Anne of Russia, of the military Order of Poland, and of the Order of Stanislaus of Salm-Kirburg. The accused is of military appearance, and wears a large moustache. His button-hole was ornamented with a ribbon of various colours.

Several persons then testified that the "Prince" had sold them decorations; in some cases for 500 francs and a cigar case, in others for a dinner, in a third for some shop goods. He made an impudent defence, asserting his rights as a sovereign prince.

"Are you not," said the President, "a certain Yorbeck who was brought up in a college of Jesuits, and who afterwards became servant to a Murzynowski?" "I have always been Gonzague Murzynowski," answered the accused, "and I shall always continue so."

"You first added the title of Count to your passport, and at that time that satisfied your ambition." "I have always been a count, and always a prince, but I am no longer anything since I became naturalized a Wurtemberger."

In answer to other questions he denied that his wife, the daughter of an innkeeper in Wurtemberg, had given him 1000 florins to get rid of him on account of his ill-treatment of her, or that he had been condemned for adultery. He also denied that he had been expelled from Vienna by the police, but admitted that when serving in Spain he had been turned out of a regiment, which he said he had commanded, for incapacity and cowardice. He further denied that he had received relief as a refugee at Cahors at the rate of 1 fr. 45 c. a day, but admitted that the Ministry of the Interior had once granted him 100 fr. to pay his expenses to Germany. He then went on to say he had applied for service in Prussia, and been refused; that (being divorced from his first wife) he had married the daughter of the secretary of King Ferdinand of Spain; that he then assumed the style and title of Prince Gonzague, and addressed petitions to the peers and deputies of France to be recognised as such. He had, he said, gone to England to fly from persecution. On his return he did not deny that he had begun to grant decorations, and that he had been created a baron. "By what right did you do so?" said the President. "By the right of my birth—the right of the chief of the Gonzagues. I gave decorations to sovereign princes and cardinals, who still wear them, and I never asked for money." "You are not a Gonzague," said the President. "M. Lacabane says so, and he is one of the principal genealogists of Europe." "A Lacabane! Pooh! I laugh at him! I am a Gonzague, I say!" He was convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment.

THE ASSIZES.

THERE have been cases of infanticide at the Essex, Norfolk, Northampton, and York assizes. Some of them have been recorded in our columns already. The details of all are very painful. In nearly all the cases the motive of the mothers in murdering the children have been the fear of exposure. In one case, at Northampton, the mother was advised by her own mother not to suckle the child, lest she should get "too fond of it," and not be able to part with it. They left the little child—a very fine one—to lie all day in bed without food; but a neighbour speaking to the young mother about it, remarked that she cried bitterly in telling of her mother's advice. Inquiries were made the next day, but the child was found dead. The young woman has been acquitted, but her mother has been sentenced to imprisonment for twelve months.

Cases of domestic cruelty are common in the provinces, but the punishments awarded are properly more severe than those given in London. At York a man has been transported for ten years for murderously assaulting his daughter; and at Winchester, a man who inflicted a cut on his wife's neck has been transported for life.

In Ireland generally, the present Assizes are light, but those in the county of Monaghan are very heavy, several cases of murder being in the calendar.

At Abingdon the list of offences is "light," containing the names of nineteen prisoners only. Some of the cases are heavy—burglary, rape, and violent assault being numerous in proportion. None of the prisoners have received a "superior education," and but very few know how to read and write.

The little county of Rutland is remarkable for its maiden assizes; but this circuit it has three or four very serious cases in its calendar. They consist exclusively of personal assaults—some of an aggravated kind.

Litigation is not popular at Norfolk, there being but one civil cause. The criminal calendar is likewise light, the most serious case being an assault with intent to murder. There were nine cases of larceny, one of which was a charge against Ellen Martin. She is a young and very pretty girl of sixteen, or, as the gallant penny-a-liner says, "possesses considerable personal attractions." Thinking that one so pretty should not want handsome dresses, she pondered on a device. She knew that Mrs. Carter, a lady living near the town, was a customer at Quelch's, the draper, and she resolved to write in her name for the materials. She sat down, wrote for 10 yards of barge, 10 yards of book muslin, 20 yards of white muslin, and a pair of stays. She ordered

that they should be left at the White Hart Inn "till called for." She received them, and gave them to some milliners of the town to be made into dresses. But her success was short lived; the fraud was discovered in three or four days, and she was arrested. The reporter says—"When before the magistrate the prisoner made no statement, but remained, as at her trial to-day, oppressed with shame and grief, which burst from her in audible sobs, as she heard the minister of the parish where her parents, who are in a respectable class of life, reside, give her an excellent character, as did Mrs. Carter, who stated that she had known the prisoner for five years, and that the girl knew very well she was a customer of Mr. Quelch." She has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment.

THE DANGEROUS CLASSES.

JOHN BIRD treated his wife badly, beating her several times. He at length abandoned her and her child, and left them without the slightest means of support. The wife, being of an industrious disposition, supported herself at needlework, and obtained from the charity of Elizabeth Dominey a poor lodging. The husband, irritated at this kindness, called at the house frequently, and abused Mrs. Dominey with the most disgusting epithets, and spitting in her face. On Monday, he abruptly accosted her at the street door, and demanded to see the child. His wife was out at the time with the child, and Mrs. Dominey told him she had not got it, upon which Bird called her a liar, and dealt her such a blow on the left side of the head and beneath the ear that she instantly dropped on the doorstep. Upon partly recovering from the effects of this blow she scrambled on to her feet and fled behind the counter to protect herself, but Bird forced her down into a corner, and, as he could not strike her about the body, frog her stooping position, beat her about the head, throat, face, and neck in the most brutal manner "for at least a quarter of an hour," declaring all the time that he was determined to murder her. She screamed as loudly as she could for help, there being no one in the house but herself, and, her cries having at length attracted the notice of two gentlemen who were passing, they ran in to her assistance, forcibly pulled the fellow away from her, and turned him into the street. The poor woman stated before the magistrate that her head was in great pain from the blows she had received upon it; that she was so bruised and shaken all over that her medical attendant had ordered the application of leeches as soon as she returned from the court; and she expressed her conviction that the only motive Bird had for so brutally treating her was her constant kindness to his deserted wife and child, as she had never given him the slightest cause of offence.

Elizabeth Casher, a nurse, stated, that while passing the house, she saw Bird deal the woman a heavy blow on the head, and afterwards beat her about the head, face, and neck in such a "frightful" manner that she thought he must have killed her. The woman was pinned down so helplessly in a corner that she could not escape from his blows, and, from his beating her in that way, "she thought at first that she must be his own wife." After the two gentlemen had rescued her from his clutches, Mrs. Dominey's daughter entered with a child in her arms, and the instant Bird saw it he made a grasp at it, and so tore its face down with his nails that the blood followed the laceration.

The ruffian has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment and hard labour.

A MYSTERIOUS LADY.

Mrs. BURROUGHS is a lady whose origin is mysteriously obscure. She is now the wife of a gardener, but there seems reason to believe that she is of good family, and that in early life she was married to a captain in the navy, named Waller. She possessed a picture given to her by one of her friends; it was supposed to be worth 700*l*. Thompson, a grocer, gave Mrs. Burroughs and her husband credit for goods, and retained some power over them by his frequent demands for the money. Thompson accompanied her to a picture-broker, to sell the picture; and during the day, Thompson attempted, she said, to steal the picture. She charged him with the larceny, but he was acquitted. Evidently in revenge, or wrath at the non-payment of his debt, she was arrested the next day, on a charge, by Thompson, that she had obtained money under false pretences. She was taken through the streets by a policeman, but the charge against her was dismissed. She brought an action for false imprisonment, and thus gave evidence, on the trial of the case on Monday:—

"My husband used to buy the goods. I never in my life told the defendant that I was heiress to large estates, and was in London on Parliamentary business. I never told him I was the daughter of Lady Anne Courtenay. I never told him that I was acquainted with Lady Hamilton and other persons of distinction—but I *be* so. I never said to no one whose daughter I am. I always represented myself as Mrs. Burroughs. I believe I was born in London. I don't call myself Mrs. Combe."

The Chief Justice here inquired of the witness what her name really was, and, after some ineffectual attempts to get it correct, it was ascertained to be "Elizabeth Martha Selina Georgina Augusta Combe Burroughs." (Much laughter.) It seemed from the explanation of witness that Combe was sometimes pronounced "Cooman" or "Chum."—Witness did not in general write those names in full. (A laugh.) (Addressing Mr. Parry.) "I have Parliamentary business, your Honour; I decline giving my Parliamentary business." Witness was connected with some part of the family of Bridgewater, the Egertons.

The Chief Justice inquired whether she was one of the claimants under the limitations in the Bridgewater case; if so, she might be entitled to 40,000*l*?

Witness proceeded.—I am not, but my aunt was an Egerton. I can't say I am a Courtenay. On my oath, I never told Mr. Thompson I was, or that I was related to Lady Hamilton.

A Jurymen said, he thought Mr. Parry was pressing

too hard upon a woman standing alone in a public court as a witness.

[Some short discussion ensued, in which the learned Judge was understood to explain to the jurymen, from his own experience, the necessity for allowing counsel in cross-examination to ask leading questions; and Mr. Parry thought a jurymen, though independent, could not ride over the Court; and the jurymen, who said that he did not like to see one witness in a court made a laughing stock, withdrew the term "browbeat."]

Re-examined.—I was married in 1825 by the Rev. Dr. Jekyl. I and my husband have received an allowance from an unknown friend—a lady.

Thomas Burroughs, the husband of the mysterious lady, in the course of his cross-examination by Mr. Parry, said,—"I might, and very likely did, say to Thompson that my wife was highly connected. I said she was related to Lady Courtenay. I said she might be a relation of Lady Hamilton's. I told you once before, that, as far as I was given to understand, she was a daughter of (the witness was understood to say) Lady Anne Courtenay. I told him, so far as I knew, we was about Parliamentary business. I never said I had had an interview with the Lord Chancellor. I told him I was intimate with Mr. Roundell Palmer. [Witness here held up his fist and addressed the learned counsel with much violence: he was understood to say that the intimacy was in respect to election matters, and then added—] I have not done with you yet. (Laughter.)

The Chief Justice pointed out that the circumstances formed a case of retaliation. Mrs. Burroughs charged Thompson with larceny, and he readily charged her with fraud.—A verdict for the plaintiff of 10*l*. and costs was then found.

A WICKED WIFE.

THE savage actions of husbands towards their wives brutalises their victims as well as themselves. We notice from week to week how the women among the lower classes adapt themselves, by degradation, to the low life around them. This week we have a case, showing how British wives assert their rights. Mr. Carmichael, a sedate middle-aged man, thus told his story:—"On the 6th of this month I returned home from some business I had been transacting, and as soon as I got in I noticed that my wife, as was too frequently the case, was in a very angry and savage humour. I guessed there was something amiss, and thought I had better get out of her way. I went into the workshop at the back, and she followed me, accusing me of an intimacy with the servant of a neighbour, whom I really have not even seen for I don't know how long. I said she was a foolish woman to worry herself at such nonsense, and she immediately flung a basin at me, but missed her aim; she then hurled three heavy pieces of iron at my head, but I lowered my head each time, and escaped them, and she then seized hold of me and tried to fix her claws into my face. I pushed her on one side and was running off, when she flung a heavy hammer at my head, and it is a very fortunate thing that it missed me, or I think I should have been killed. I said to myself, 'This is too strong; this won't do; I'll wait till she gets a little cooler, and take a walk in the fields,' and I hastened out of the house as fast as I could, to go away."

The magistrate: Where were you going, then?

Mr. Carmichael: Going to? I was going to the world's end, or anywhere else, so that I could get out of the reach of her; but I was no sooner out of the house than she was after me, exclaiming, "You scoundrel, where are you going?" I said nothing, but ran, and so did she, and the instant she got up to me she levelled several furious kicks at the most dangerous parts of my person. I caught hold of her to save myself, and she immediately thrust one of my hands into her mouth, and bit it so terribly as to cause me the greatest agony, and I was obliged to let go of her again, upon which she caught me by the stock, twisted it till I was nearly strangled, and tore off both the lappets of it, as I now show it to you. I tried to bolt as fast as I could afresh, but she sprang after me, again came up to me, and, seizing me by the back of my coat, ripped away both the tails of it like a spencer, in this way (said the complainant, turning round and exhibiting his back to the bench). This seemed to stop her a bit, and I lost no time in availing myself of it to escape from her, or I am sure she would have torn me to pieces, as she had my clothing already." Mr. Carmichael concluded by declaring that he could not live with his wife any more, as he was losing all his business through her ungovernable temper, and, as an instance of it, mentioned that it was only a short time since that she had flung a live kitten at his face in such a vindictive manner that, though fortunately for him, he succeeded in escaping it, yet it came against the brick wall with such force that it was instantly killed and its brains dashed out.

The magistrate, after ineffectually attempting to procure an adjustment between them, sentenced the wife to pay a penalty of 5*l*., or in default to be committed for one month to the House of Correction.

Upon hearing the sentence, the wife earnestly appealed to some of her neighbours who were present to lend her 5*l*. and she would give them 5*l*. for it as soon as she got home, but all declined to do so, and she then appealed to her husband; the latter, however, assured the magistrate he durst not pay it for her, as before he could get to the end of the street she would illuse him even worse than before. The wife on this became so fearfully excited as to raise an apprehension she was losing her intellects, and, as the husband offered her a separate maintenance, the magistrate determined to hold her to bail that she might be medically examined. She refused to accept any maintenance, with great indignation, and was therefore removed to the cells, but on reaching the door of one of them she became perfectly frantic, and it being manifestly dangerous to lock her up, she was again brought into the court, when she at length consented, on becoming more tranquil, to accept a weekly pecuniary offer of her husband in lieu of going to prison, together with any clothing that

she might desire, but still expressed her wish to go home again.

The magistrate, however, warned her seriously of the consequences, if she returned to her husband's house, and both ultimately quitted the court at opposite doors, the wife with obvious reluctance, and anxiously watching her husband out.

HOW THE CAB ACT WORKS.

THE cabmen have commenced open hostilities against the public. Irritated at the low fares and vexatious rules of the new act, they show their spite in many ways. On Tuesday evening, when our wearied senators turned out of the House, the cabmen on the stand refused to take them, and jeeringly drove off. On Wednesday evening, it poured rain, and the British fair, emerging from Opera and theatre, found no cabs—the savage drivers tauntingly driving up and down in the centre of the Strand, and defying alike threats and entreaties. On Thursday evening, a belated traveller, near the Shoreditch Station, hailed a cab; but the driver laughed at him. The traveller seized the horse's head: and the driver cut at the persevering "party" until the blood flowed down his face. This cabman has been fined 5*l*. In the course of the same day six or seven gentlemen drove up to the Marlborough-street court in cabs which they had hired, and with the drivers of which they had disputes about the fare, for the purpose of getting an immediate decision from the sitting magistrate. All the cases turned upon the point whether the cabmen was entitled to charge for time as well as distance. Mr. Bingham pointed out the provision in the new act which enabled the driver to charge not only for distance, but for waiting, provided the waiting amounted to fifteen minutes. For every fifteen minutes waiting a cabman is entitled to charge 6*d*. in addition to his fare. This explanation of the law came upon more than one gentleman in the shape of a disagreeable surprise—in one case the party having to pay for five quarters of an hour waiting, in addition to the fare.

Other cases illustrate the state of war in which the public have been plunged.

Mr. John Bigg, fruiterer, took 130 pine apples in a cab, and was compelled by the cabman to pay one shilling more for the luggage. The magistrate decided that the cabman could not charge for carrying the fruit, but could have refused to take it, as the new class of cabs should be kept clean and neat, and not used as market carts. Mr. Bigg thought "nothing could be more agreeable than the smell of pine apples."

At Bow-street, Mr. J. E. Wilder, of the Union Club, drove up in a hansom cab, the driver of which demanded a fare refused as unreasonable by Mr. Wilder. It was 1*s*. 6*d*. for driving from the Horns, Kennington, to Gloucester-street, Piccadilly, and from thence to the Union Club, Trafalgar-square. But the magistrate decided that the cabman was right: and Mr. Wilder had to pay the demand and the additional sum for attendance at Bow-street.

Mr. Otway, M.P., paid eighteen pence for a drive from Sloane-street to Argyll-street, Oxford-street. On which the driver said he was "no gentleman." For this unconstitutional language the driver was fined 40*s*.

CHEAP BEER.

THE Company formed to conduct a brewery for London and the country, on the co-operative principle, has issued a Report of its progress. It was read at an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday. It stated that the present condition of the company was such, that a dividend of five per cent. on all shares paid up was available. The Report further stated, that had means existed in the shape of capital to have worked the company to the extent of business which might be done, a much larger dividend could have been declared. The Report congratulated the shareholders upon what had been achieved in spite of the want of capital and the continual rise of the price of malt and hops. Yet the directors had kept the price and quality of the articles sold the same as before. The Report also urged the propriety of the shareholders extending the means of the company by taking more shares, or by lending money to the directors, which, under the present circumstances of the company, may safely be recommended as an investment. It was stated that highly influential members of the medical profession had recommended the ales and porter brewed by the company to their patients as the only genuine in London. The Report goes on to state at length the good effects which must arise, both morally and physically, from the ramifications of the company being extended, and concludes by stating that the company is very much indebted for its present prosperous condition to the energy and untiring zeal of the manager and secretary, Mr. William Stevens.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE Queen has enjoyed her usual amusements this week—the Opera and the German Plays. Prince Albert is pronounced convalescent.

Lord Mayor Challis entertained a large number of persons at the Mansion House on Thursday. This evening party was one of the series which have been given in connexion with the extension of education; it was professedly devoted to men of letters, journalists, and artists. But conspicuous among the guests were some of the aristocracy, notably the Duchess of Sutherland, and the Duke of Argyll; of the Church the Bishop of Salisbury; of Members of Parliament, Mr. Hume and Mr. Fox; of artists, Mr. Mulready and Mr. Bailey; and among journalists and men of letters were Mr. Cornwall Lewis, Mr. Knight Hunt, Mr. Mowbray Morris, Mr. Geo. H. Lewes, Dr. Kinkel, Mr. Robert Bell, Mr. Westland Marston, Mr. David Masson,

Mr. (and Mrs.) Theodore Martin, and Mr. Charles Knight.

The series of lectures on satirical literature was closed by Mr. Hannay on Wednesday, when he spoke, "sixth, and lastly," of contemporary satire. The lecture began with a disquisition on Byron; and Mr. Hannay contended sturdily for the wholesomeness, at least, of his satire, particularly in the *Don Juan*, which he considered the most moral of all Byron's works. Moore's laurels, Mr. Hannay thought too big for him; and he contrasted Moore's love of beauty with that of Byron. To Moore, poetry was a flower, which afforded him exquisite delight, but was to be admired in an *épergne*, and did not distract him from the soup. The remarks on Hook were appropriately severe, and brought the subject down to a general consideration of the comic man, whom Mr. Hannay likened to y^e great Baron's gester, y^e great Baron now-a-day being the public, who haughtily demands to be amused. Of how much reverence is necessary to the true satirist, Mr. Hannay gave a valuable hint by his allusion to Solomon. In the same breath he spoke of Byron's intense perception of beauty. Altogether the lecture, which was full of good things, seemed to please the audience more than any of the series,—if, indeed, the applause which followed it was not intended as a closing tribute to the fine sense and graceful expression of the lecturer.

The second Morning Concert given by Mademoiselle Claus, at Willis's Rooms, on Thursday, was as interesting and as successful as her first. This delightful young artist, already in the front rank of pianists, displays on every fresh occasion signs of a more highly cultivated, more severely disciplined excellence. She enjoys, too, may we be permitted to say, the singular advantage of charming all eyes as well as all ears in the brilliant audiences her name alone is sufficient to assemble. But while she fascinates the enthusiastic, she exacts the admiration of the critical. For to all the gifts and graces which only genius and beauty can bestow, she now adds those more tranquil and substantial merits which only deep and severe devotion to her art can have matured. Her touch is, if possible, more delicate, her style more impassioned, especially when speaking the divine language of Beethoven, more subtle and delicate than ever. The Sonata of Mendelssohn was executed with unflinching precision; and the *Suite de pièces Anglaises*, by Bach, with a flowing gaiety and joyousness that sent a thrill of delight through the audience. Mademoiselle Claus makes the chords to sing. She was the soul of the entertainment. Next in favour was Mademoiselle Agnes Bury.

A grand concert was given by M. Julien, at Drury-lane Theatre, on Monday. It tells strongly in favour of the popularity of Julien among his musical compeers, that as a testimonial to him personally, all the performers,—Madame Castellani, Herr Fornes, Mr. Sims Reeves, Signor Bottesini, Emile Prudent, Koenig, and Herr Reichart, gave their services gratuitously on the occasion.

The Marchioness of Anglesea, after a brief illness, died suddenly on Friday morning, in the presence of her husband and family. The Queen sent to ask after the health of the Marchioness, and the messenger brought back the news of her death.

To take children from the control of bad parents is one of the objects of the Juvenile Mendicancy Bill. To justify such a course, Lord Shaftesbury quoted Lord Eldon's judgment in a case of disputed parental jurisdiction, arising from Mr. Long Wellesley's alleged misconduct. That person is now Lord Mornington, and on reading Lord Shaftesbury's speech he sent him a "hostile message." Lord Shaftesbury contemptuously referred the angry peer to his solicitors.

The Conservative Land Society had a dinner on Friday. Mr. R. A. Christopher, M.P., made the principal speech, hoping to see "the people" become "small landowners." The Society has now 5,000 shares of 50l. each, being a capital of 250,000l.

Curious people note Mr. Disraeli's reserve in the Senate and in society. At many late fashionable parties Mrs. Disraeli appeared without her husband. Are we to have a new novel or a great speech?

Mr. Serjeant Murphy, member for Cork, has been appointed Commissioner of the Insolvent Debtors' Court, in place of Mr. H. R. Reynolds, resigned. The salary is 1500l. a year.

The antiquities of Chichester are being curiously examined by the members of the Archaeological Institute, who read lectures in the morning, walk about old buildings during the day, and dine pleasantly in the evening.

At Lambeth the Liberals of North Lincolnshire recently met Mr. Montagu J. Cholmeley, their candidate at the last election, to discuss resolutions on their future political proceedings. Mr. Weston Crockett, Mr. John Golden, Mr. Charles Soety, and the Rev. E. R. Larken were among the leading men of the meeting. It is intended to put in two Liberals for the North Division at the next opportunity.

On Wednesday, the Town Council of Sheffield adopted a petition to Parliament in favour of opening the Crystal Palace on Sundays. The numbers were 22 for, 5 against. Some months since a large county meeting was held

at Taunton, in Somersetshire, to consider the best steps for securing the restoration and improvement of the column erected at Wellington, a short distance from that place, in honour of the late Duke of Wellington. A notice of it appeared then in the *Times* [in the *Leader* likewise], and it was hoped that the matter would have been taken up in a spirited manner. Up to the present time, however, very little has been done; and subscriptions are still wanted for proceeding with the works. The tenders of an architect and builder of Bath have been accepted, and it is to be hoped that the west of England will no longer hold back, but will at once provide the necessary funds for completing this important and, it may be said, national undertaking.—*Times* (Thursday, July 14.)

The National Testimonial to Dargan was resolved on at a very respectable meeting in Dublin, on Thursday. Several noblemen and the highest business men of the county were present. The subscriptions are to range from 1s. upwards.

Decimal coinage "looms in the future." The Commons Committee has concluded its inquiry, and a favourable report is anticipated. The present pound will be divided into 1000 parts.

The next meeting of Convocation is to take place on the 18th of August. The *Weekly Dispatch* promulgates a report:—"It is said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Earl of Aberdeen, and the Duke of Newcastle, are willing to allow both houses to sit to discuss any matters which they may consider conducive to the welfare of the Church, and to suggest any means which may occur to them for bringing about some broad scheme of ecclesiastical reform; but that some other members of the Government and the Archbishop of Canterbury are decidedly opposed to such a step, under the impression that it would lead the Church into serious difficulties. In all probability some arrangement will be come to before the day of meeting in order to prevent a collision between the hostile parties."

Renewed disease in the potatoes is rumoured in the Irish papers.

Last week the land sold in the Irish Encumbered Estates Court was worth 183,850l. On one day of this week the sales amounted to 81,455l.

Political factions as well as agrarian outrages are at a discount in Ireland. The 12th of July passed over without a procession.

The exclusion from the Irish National Schools of Dr. Whately's two books, the *Truths of Christianity*, and the *Evidences of Christianity*, was formally carried out on last Friday at the National Board.

The annual daily attendance at the Dublin Exhibition now ranges above 9000.

The maintenance of Irish paupers cost 260,000l. during the first half of last year, and but 230,000l. during the first half of the present year.

The usual news has come from Buenos Ayres. There is a crisis. The city is besieged by Urquiza and Lagos, but with no prospect of speedy surrender. The political anarchy is expected to last through the winter.

"Spain proposes to re-annex Mexico." Such is the strange report in the Washington papers. It is said that Canedo, late governor of Cuba, has conspired with Santa Anna to land six thousand Spanish troops at Vera Cruz from Havana, and to re-establish Spanish rule in the country.

The lock controversy is again opened, Mr. Hobbs having opened another lock—one, too, to which the Society of Arts, on the advice of Mr. Chubb, awarded a prize. Fired at Mr. Hobbs's boast of this deed, Mr. Edwin Cotterill, lock-maker, of Birmingham, offers to give Mr. Hobbs fifty guineas if he pick one of the Cotterill "commercial" locks in one day, and 200 guineas if he pick one of the Cotterill "best locks" in a reasonable time. Mr. Hobbs has replied. He simply re-states that the lock he picked was the same in principle as the Cotterill lock. He declines the challenge, having come to this country as a competitor at the Great Exhibition, and not open to every challenge that may be made. The fact of his picking the Bramah lock rests not on his own assertion, but on the award of the then committee.

Bristol shipping has increased by 30,426 tons during the last half-year, compared with the previous six months.

Though the best wheat in London at present is 3 per cent. cheaper than it is in Paris, and though the first flour is 3 per cent. cheaper, the best 4 lb. loaf in London is 23 per cent. dearer than in Paris.

The new harbour of refuge at Holyhead is making great progress. Hundreds of sail have put in during the last few months. An area of 316 acres is being enclosed by a breakwater, three-fourths of a mile in length, with a sea-pier two thousand feet in length, and the average depth of water will be upwards of thirty feet. Millions of tons of stone have been deposited to form the foreshore and breakwater, and the daily delivery into the sea has been at the rate of 4000 tons.

In Sunday schools throughout the country 140,000 scholars are taught.

A refuge for poor children, between seven and fifteen years old, has been opened at Whitechapel. It has cost 1200l., and will, at first, accommodate thirty boys.

Over seven thousand persons (paying 85l.) bathed in the Lambeth Baths in the first week they were opened. The baths, when complete, will accommodate 10,000 persons a day, besides having 55 private baths.

The youngest son of Lord Londonderry—Lord Ernest Vane—had a quarrel with his tutor and left him. Then, fearing his parents' displeasure, he foolishly enlisted in the 4th Royal Irish. But his rank having been discovered he was not formally attested. He has been restored to his family, who have sent him to a military school.

Mr. Felix Wakefield wrote a letter to Mr. John Robert Godley, calling him a "sneaking scoundrel," and threatening to "thrash him soundly." Both gentlemen have been

in New Zealand, managing the colonization of that country. Mr. Wakefield has been bound to keep the peace.

Creditors, like fathers, "have flinty hearts." They now go so far as to send detectives to America and Australia in search of absconded debtors. Todd, the Newcastle bankrupt distiller, is now pursued through America by the police.

Those who sadly reckon up the "bad debts" due by emigrants, may take heart again. John Ball, formerly a Devonshire tailor, has got on so well in Australia that he has remitted money to pay his debts. The fact is authentic.

The Italians and Irish frequenting the Roman Catholic chapel in Grays Inn-lane, have been riotous and disorderly. The Italians insulted and stabbed the Irish, who retorted with bludgeons, and even the mediating priests suffered severely in the fray.

A gentleman coming home at one o'clock (morning), through one of the central streets of Nottingham, was suddenly caught by the throat, and while insensible from the choking, robbed of a valuable gold watch.

Elizabeth Dyer, a middle-aged woman, attempted to drown herself, because out of ten children she had, nine died. "The last," said she, "I loved very much; every one loved him." She was sent for a week to prison, that the chaplain might speak to her. Two other cases of attempted suicide are recorded this week; in one case, a woman took laudanum, and in another flung herself into a canal. The brutality of the men they lived with and supported by their industry caused the attempts in both cases.

Nearly ninety years ago (in 1766), a Scotch gentleman dying in London left 20,000l. to be divided "among his poor relations." The news reaching Scotland, 463 persons put in their claims, "and had their claims allowed." But now another crowd of Scotch relations has appeared, and a Chancery suit on the matter is still going on!

A York tinman, who broke his promise of marriage to his cousin, has been compelled to pay 300l. for his infidelity.

Harriet Sargeant, a married woman, formed an intimacy with James Upson. On Saturday evening she walked out with him. Some quarrel arose between them, and in an unfrequented place in Limehouse he assaulted her roughly, and then, drawing a knife from his pocket, cut her throat. She rushed along the road into a shop, and then fainted. She is still in danger, and Upson is in custody.

Theresa Swinbourne was walking across Hungerford-bridge with Watkins, drummer of the Coldstream Guards. She gave him her shawl, and on some excuse left him for a moment. On looking round, he saw her standing on the buttress of the bridge, holding on by the iron rod. A thunder-storm set in, at this moment "a flash of lightning caused her to let go her hold," and she fell into the water. This is the drummer's account. But it is believed that she committed suicide, as she was drunk at the time; and though having highly respectable friends, has been leading a very bad life for some time.

In the dark arches near the river—the Adelphi Arch—a respectable man was found on Thursday, a horrid gash in his throat, the blood gurgling from it. He is still in danger. How he came by the wound is not known.

Sergeant Adams has juries almost as jolly as himself. Instead of considering their verdict, a jury, empanelled on Wednesday, threw up the window, and called to a passing potman for beer. The potman, not knowing the illegality of the offence, complied with the thirsty call. The proceeding was discovered; the jury were rated by the Sergeant, and the potman "sent for." He entered the court with a pint of porter in his hand, looking utterly amazed at this strange call to the bar. The judge scolded him severely, got his porter pot taken away, and locked him up. But relenting in an hour, he let him go with a laughing lecture.

A story as sad as Geneva's is told in the Norwich papers. Miss Blackiston, of Thorpe, was on a visit to her uncle. One day she was at a grand floral fête, but in the evening complained of indisposition. Next day she kept her room. As the day wore on she was missed, and after a long search her dead body was found in an ornamental pond in the garden.

A disgraceful accident took place on the Eastern Counties Railway last week. A small pilot-engine, conveying a party inspecting the line, ran into a luggage-train, and smashed it in several parts. Some men were seriously injured. The pilot-engine was going at the rate of forty miles an hour, and no telegram of its coming was forwarded beforehand.

A schooner (the *Prince Albert*) entering Deptford was struck by a heavy squall, and thrown on its side. The captain tried to save his wife and child, who were below, but he failed, and then, with his crew, left the ship, barely saving his own life. As they left, there were heard the faint screams of a woman and child, soon drowned in the rush of water.

A silk factory in Derby took fire. Some men bravely tried to save the silk in the upper story, but the burning roof fell in upon them. One man, all on fire, leaped seventy feet into the street; he is hopelessly hurt. A Mr. Thorpe, after trying to save one of the men, tied a handkerchief round his own mouth, broke through the window, and came down without help, amid the cheers of the crowd. Others have been dangerously wounded.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.

THE Return for last week exhibits a favourable condition of the public health. The deaths registered in London in the week that ended last Saturday were 925: the weekly deaths in June averaged about 1000; the present decrease is therefore considerable. The mean weekly temperature has risen 6 degs. in the same period. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1843-52 the average number was 919, which, with a certain proportion added for increase of population, becomes 1011. Hence the actual mortality last week is less than the estimated amount by 86. The following numbers are attributed to the several

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The Leader

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1853.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—Dr. ARNOLD.

LATEST POSITION OF THE RUSSO-TURKISH DISPUTE.

FROM a mere dispute between Russia and Turkey, the quarrel, which has had Constantinople for its centre, has now extended to a question involving the relations of the principal States in Europe, and directly implicating Russia with England and France. The merits of the more extended dispute can be best understood by defining its actual position in the chief capitals.

St. Petersburg is but partly unveiled to us, and we are left to judge of the position of the Emperor, partly by rumours of a very plausible kind, and partly by his own acts, which are almost enough. Two more documents have been issued, and have arrived in London this week. One is the second circular from Count Nesselrode, to the representatives of Russia at foreign courts; and the other is the proclamation issued by General Gortchakoff to the inhabitants of Moldavia and Wallachia. In the latter, the Moldavians are assured that their territories are not occupied for war, and that they will be reimbursed for the expense of keeping the Russian troops, at a rate to be agreed upon. In the meanwhile, in the immediate presence of Russian troops, certain persons in Jassy have declared their devotion to the Czar. The Russian Government therefore has definitively, though it declares provisionally, taken possession of the principalities. In his second circular, Count Nesselrode asserts that, in spite of warnings from the Russian Government, the Governments of France and England have involved themselves in the dispute; have advanced their fleets "in sight of the Turkish capital," which would be against treaties; and he declares that Russia will not withdraw her troops from Moldavia and Wallachia until the two fleets be withdrawn from Turkish waters. This has been construed to be an inclination in the Emperor to recede, since it would enable him to do so on an act to be performed by France and Great Britain. Such a construction, however, is evidently a mistake. The British and French fleets are to be withdrawn in addition to the concessions from Turkey; in other words, France and England, as well as Turkey, must succumb to the dictates of Russia. The assertions that the French and English fleets are within sight of the Turkish capital is simply false. It has been already observed, that the Emperor discriminates in the strength and sharpness of his diplomatic missives. Turkey he bullies; England, France, and Europe, he rather more politely warns; his own subjects he excites. He almost threatens England and France with war, unless they withdraw from that position which the administrations in London and Paris, as well as the ambassadors in Constantinople, have deliberately resolved upon as essential to maintain the *status quo* in Europe. Of Turkey, he asserts that her position would undo all that Russia has acquired; which would imply that the Emperor construes himself to have acquired, by gradual encroachments, certain administrative "rights" in Turkey. His own subjects he has excited to a high degree of religious enthusiasm; but sovereigns do not trouble themselves to sow excitement in their peoples, unless they have a prospective use for the crop of passions. The belief of the most distinguished statesmen in St. Petersburg, that peace will ultimately be maintained, is unintelligible, unless they mean to take the settlement into their own hands; indeed, the idea actually in the ascendant seems to be, to proceed with war, and to enforce the dictates of Russia, not only upon Turkey, but upon France and England. This resolve to have war for the sake of war, to indulge vain-glory, or attain conquests, is comparatively a novelty in the

present generation; but we might point to other instances of the same passion, in men not so irresponsibly situated as the Emperor; and although Englishmen can scarcely yet understand it, they are likely enough to learn more about it experimentally.

In Constantinople the position of the Government has not essentially altered. The Sultan adheres to his determination to give guarantees of a satisfactory kind—as, indeed, he has already done—for the tolerant treatment of his Christian subjects; but he refuses to bind himself to act, in his internal administration, under the special dictation of Russia; a determination, says Count Nesselrode, which, if it were admitted, would undo all existing treaties and all the rights that Russia has acquired in Turkey. It may be that *de facto* the Czar has acquired a position in which he has intermeddled between the Sultan and his subjects; the Sultan announcing to the people of Servia, for instance, that with the advice of his august ally and so forth, he is resolved upon a particular measure. But even an improper intervention may be tolerated until a claim is advanced to establish it by a statute; and the European powers assisting Turkey in her deliberation have agreed that such a right cannot, as a statutory right, be conferred upon Russia by Turkey.

The position of Austria is a matter of some anxious speculation; the report that her troops have entered Bosnia and Servia is disbelieved by the Austrian Minister in London, by our own Foreign Minister, and is denied in credible despatches from Vienna. The young Emperor indeed is said to have conceived offence at the little consideration that Russia has shown for Austrian interests, and with reason. Evidently Russia has not scrupled to shake Europe in every part, and few states could stand a shaking so ill as Austria. It is natural, therefore, that the Emperor of Austria should incline to that alliance which promises the quietest maintenance of the *status quo*, and which in the present instance would be the alliance with England and France. He appears, however, to be making a separate effort at conciliation.

Prussia is still a mystery, perhaps even to herself, bandying calculations as to the probable victory on either side; for Prussia dearly loves success. But it is now rumoured that she also has made some conciliatory attempt. It is not to be denied, however, that very sagacious politicians in Paris still suspect both Austria and Prussia of double-dealing. Emile de Girardin reckons them as really siding with Russia.

We need not consider the position of the smaller powers, dismissing them with one remark. A very few of them might derive some aggrandisement under cover of Russian victories, might become vassals of that vast power, but most of them must rest for their security on the general maintenance of public law and order in Europe. We may particularly glance at Sweden, Holland, Belgium, and Sardinia, as representing the respectable order of royalties that have a vested interest in European tranquillity.

The course which may be taken by the Government at Washington, we have always regarded as being of first-rate importance. We have at present no special information to guide us. We have already stated that Russian Agency has been active in the Union, to divert the great Republic to the side of the most lawless and despotic power in the world. But we do not believe that these machinations have made any real progress; on the contrary, the demeanour of the representatives of America in the East, leads to the belief that she will know her true position so far, that if she interferes at all, it will be in arraying herself on the side of justice, of public law, of national independence, and of practical freedom.

The position of our own Government appears to be like that of the Porte, materially unaltered. Lord Clarendon has declared that the British Government will not recal its fleet at the command of Russia; he has also declared that France and England are united in their course, and the course taken by France has already been made public in the note transmitted by M. Drouyn de Lhuys to Count Nesselrode. France and England then jointly refuse to recognise the pretensions of Russia in Turkey, and call upon the Emperor to settle peaceably the dispute that he himself has provoked. This cannot be better expressed than in the closing words of the French note:—

Diseases in the zymotic class : 6 to small-pox (of which 2 occurred to adults), 24 to measles, 25 to scarlatina, 44 to whooping-cough, 7 to croup, 6 to thrush, 34 to diarrhoea, 5 to dysentery, one to influenza, one to ague, 3 to remittent fever, 45 to typhus, 2 to metria (puerperal fever), 7 to erysipelas, and 3 to syphilis. Diseases of the respiratory organs, which have now fallen to the usual amount, number 64. Cancer destroyed 22 lives, gout one, apoplexy 22, paralysis 20, delirium tremens 4, epilepsy 5, enteritis 16, disease of the liver 18. Four deaths resulted from intemperance.

Last week the births of 709 boys and 735 girls, in all 1444 children, were registered in London. In the eight corresponding weeks of the years 1845-52 the average number was 1253.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.883 in. The reading of the barometer decreased from 30.11 in. at the beginning of the week to 29.74 in. by 9h. P.M. on the 7th; increased to 29.80 in. by 9h. P.M. on the 8th; decreased to 29.78 in. by noon on the 9th; and increased to 29.81 in. by the end of the week. The mean temperature of the week was 60.1 degs., which is 1.9 degs. above the average of the same week in 38 years. The mean daily temperature was below the average on the first three days; on the three following days it rose to 3 degs., 7 degs., and 6 degs. above it; on Saturday it was still slightly above the average. The highest temperature occurred on Thursday, and was 67.7 degs.; the lowest on Sunday, when it was 50.1 degs. The greatest difference between the dew point temperature and air temperature was 17.8 degs on Sunday: the least 6.5 degs. on Friday: the mean difference of the week was 8 degs. The wind blew from south-west on the first four days; it afterwards varied from south to north-east.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

On the 25th of March, at University College, Sydney, New South Wales, the wife of Professor Pell: a son, stillborn.
On the 1st of July, at Romford-lodge, Romford, Essex, the Countess Alfred de Bylandt: a son.
On the 1st, the wife of Mr. J. C. Nesbit, Principal of the Criminal and Agricultural College, Kennington: a son.
On the 7th, at Portland-terrace, Regent's-park, the wife of the Hon. T. F. Johnston, Colonial Secretary, Trinidad: a daughter.
On the 8th, at Militschowes, in Bohemia, the Countess Althaus: a son.
On the 9th, at Chester-villa, Lansdowne-road, the wife of Major-General George Paris Bradshaw, K.H.: a son.
On the 10th, at 1, Annett's-crescent, Islington, the wife of Dr. Felix Leoban: a son, stillborn.
On the 11th, at Beeston-hall, Norfolk, Lady Preston: a daughter.
On the 11th, at Mark-hall, Essex, the wife of George Granville Randolph, Commander of H.M.S. Rodney: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 7th of June, at St. Peter's Church, Brighton, Captain Pelston, late of the Forty-fourth Regiment, son and heir and only issue of the first marriage of Sir Richard Puleston, Bart., of Emral-park, Flintshire, to Catherine Judith Fontayne Wilson, youngest daughter of the late Richard Fontayne Wilson, Esq., of Melton-park, and sister of the present High Sheriff for the county of York, Andrew Fontayne Wilson Montagu, Esq.
On the 26th, at East Teignmouth Church, the Rev. James Saunders, B.D., rector of Week St. Mary, Cornwall, and late fellow of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, to Mary, youngest daughter of the late W. B. Seaman, Esq., of Vere, in the island of Jamaica, and granddaughter of the late Rev. John Campbell, many years Senior Ecclesiastical Commissary of that island.
On the 6th of July, at Darling's, John Prince Nichol, LL.D., Professor of Astronomy in the University of Glasgow, to Elizabeth, daughter of the late Joseph Pease, Esq., of Feethams.
On the 7th, at St. Mary's, Cheltenham, the Rev. William Wellwood Stoddart, vicar of Cheltenham, and late Fellow and Tutor of St. John's, eldest surviving son of Sir John Stoddart, late Chief Justice of Malta, to Augusta, youngest daughter of the late Major Baddeley, Seventh Hussars.
On the 7th, at Glendernott Church, John Barré Beresford, Esq., Learmont, county of Londonderry, to Caroline, daughter and only child of William and Lady Elizabeth Hamilton Ash, Ashbrook, Londonderry.

On the 7th, at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, Lord Aberdour, eldest son of the Earl of Morton, to Lady Alice Lambton, third daughter of the late Earl of Durham.
On the 9th, at the church of the Holy Trinity, Ely, Charles Hoggall, Mus. Doc. Cantab., of North Andley-street, Grosvenor-square, to Maria Mendham, youngest daughter of the late William Kempton, Esq., of Ely.
On the 12th, at St. James's, Paddington, Britiffe Skottowe, Esq., formerly of Harrow Weald in the county of Middlesex, to Letitia Mourgue, second daughter of John Constable, Esq., of Westbourne-terrace.

DEATHS.

On the 12th of March, at Melbourne, Australia, aged twenty-four, Edward Wollstonecraft Turner, youngest son of the late John Turner of the Strand, London. Mr. Turner was drowned by the sinking of a boat in the Yarra-Yarra.
On the 2nd of July, at Adare-manoor, county of Limerick, Caroline Adelaide, eldest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Dunmore, in her sixteenth year.
On the 3rd, at Belmont-house, Devonport, Major-General F. W. Wilson, C.B., of the Madras Army.
On the 5th, at Bath, George Rose, Esq., formerly a stipendiary magistrate in British Guiana.
On the 6th, at Reading, Mrs. Hughes, widow of the late Dr. Hughes, Canon Residentiary of St. Paul's, aged eighty-three.
On the 6th, at Chichester, Miriam, widow of the late General Yemba, and eldest daughter of the late General Sir William Green, Bart., in the ninety-seventh year of her age.
On the 7th, at Great Malvern, Lucy Hooper Cockburn, the beloved and ninth child of Sir W. S. B. and Lady Cockburn, in the fourteenth year of her age.
On the 8th inst, in Grosvenor-square, the Hon. Louisa Elphinstone de Flahault.
On the 8th, at Uxbridge-house, the Marchioness of Anglesey, aged seventy-two.
On the 8th, in Wilton-place, Ellen Chantrey, the beloved child of Richard Westmacott, Esq.
On the 9th, at Chelsea, Matilda, wife of Richard Phillips, Esq., and granddaughter of the late John Bacon, Esq., R.A.
On the 10th, at Drake's-place, Wellington, aged seventy, Anne, widow of the Rev. William Procter Thomas, LL.B., Prebendary of Wells, and late Vicar of Wellington, Somerset.
On the 11th, at Heath-lane-lodge, Twickenham, in the twenty-first year of his age, Henry Palleine Lysaght, third surviving son of Admiral Lysaght.
On the 12th, at Heaton-hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in the seventieth year of his age, Addison Langhorn Potter, Esq., a magistrate and alderman of the borough.

"The moderation of France takes from her all responsibility, and gives her the right to hope that all the sacrifices which she has made, to secure the tranquillity of the East, will not have been in vain; that the Russian Government will at length discover some mode of reconciling its pretensions with the prerogatives of the Sultan's sovereignty; and that thus an arrangement may be devised that shall settle, without a resort to force, a question on the solution of which so many interests are now dependent."

And by a great stretch of consideration, the Allied Powers have transmitted to St. Petersburg the suggestion of a mode in which the Czar may make his retreat.

The deliberation afforded by these last negotiations will be far from useless. We scarcely expect that Russia should yield to any reasonable proposition. Her Emperor, indeed, is almost pledged to go forward, unless he obtain a very abject submission; if after that, he give way, it will be, not to reason, but to alarm at seeing the strength arrayed against him; and thus he will confess before the world that his bullying submits to the lesson of fear. We have little expectation that he will have sufficient command over his pride for such a practical confession.

If he decide upon war, probably he will show as little respect for real dignity as he has done already, and will not scruple to take advantage of our delay to increase the start that he has been permitted to gain; but even then we hold that the delay will not be valueless. It will be something for England to have proved to herself, beyond the possibility of mistake, that war was not to have been avoided by any pains on her part. It will be something to have stretched justice in favour of Russia till it crack; to have exhausted every consideration for that power; and so to prove her irresponsible lawlessness, her inexorable temper, her hard, cruel, impetuous nature. It will be something to have drawn out her total want of scruple—to have made her character understood; so that when she stands unmasked in all the odiousness of tyranny, falsehood, and injustice, England may say—This is the power that suppressed Poland—this is the accomplice that despoiled Hungary of her ancestral constitution—this is the power that menaces Sweden, and threatens our own India with treacherous advances—this is the power that cannot respect the rights of the Circassian who spurns the Cossack from her indomitable fastnesses—this is the Christian power that is oppressing Turkey in the name of religious faith, and is gradually suffered by chicanery and assault, by violence and intrigue, by overweening effrontery and barbarian force, to devour that patient and passive Europe, which lies basking in the sun of a decrepit civilization, preaching peace, and deifying trade—playing at soldiers, and parading pleasure navies—permitted an ostensible supremacy, on condition of real impotence! Because, if the character of such a power, if the necessity of at last arresting its guilty career, be fully understood, Englishmen will not be wanting to the occasion, nor will they suffer English statesmen to tamper with the destinies of Europe by a finikin exclusiveness of diplomatic or dynastic alliances. If Russia will not stop in her attempt to assume the dictatorship of Europe, she must be pulled down.

AN ENGLISH CONSEIL DE PRUD'HOMMES.

An Association has been formed in Lancashire, apparently to organise a systematic resistance to the operatives who are moving for high wages, and on the first blush, we are inclined to regret that the masters should treat the men so much like an enemy, as to form a separate camp. On reflection, however, we are convinced that the step now taken, if it be followed up with judgment, will be useful to the men as well as to the masters.

Our readers know that we hold all industrial operations to be rendered more facile and more advantageous to all concerned, if the principle of concert be introduced, so that the divided operations may be carried on with reciprocal aid. The grand obstacle to that principle is the want of understanding, far more than the conflict of interests, because it is almost always found, that in the long run the interests are the same. Thus, if a master manufacturer can undersell his neighbour, he may snatch a temporary advantage; but in the long run, the derangement of trade, the debased amount of profit, and possibly even

the bankruptcy inflicted upon his fellows, will, to some extent at least, recoil upon himself. Those who connive at his proceedings, or lazily permit them, will also suffer; and in the end, the gross amount to be divided amongst the whole number is less than it would have been. It is the same with the working-man consenting to a lower rate of wages. But it is the same also as between masters and men; for there is no doubt that a trade conducted with the largest amount of sagacity, of skill, assiduity, and economy, will return a larger proportion to be divided amongst the whole, than if those who ought to co-operate are filching from each other. The first step towards an understanding throughout the whole, is an understanding in the several sections. If the men be thoroughly organised—if they have a machinery for collecting information and diffusing it again, for collecting the opinions of the several individuals, and forming it into a public opinion of their class—they will at once concentrate their action according to the largest amount of information they can command, according to the feeling which will obtain the most general support, and in a mode most likely to influence the opposite side.

Exactly the same may be said on the side of the masters; with this additional remark, that individual departures from a general understanding amongst the capitalists cause more confusion, since each man operates on a larger scale than a single working man. We believe that the masters, by their concentration, may do more harm—may acquire a strength to inflict greater injury on the men; but if they do so, the mischief will recoil upon themselves. They will have more broken machinery, more imperfect fabrics, more disturbances, and, in the end, they will have to pay a fine out of their own pockets. The masters of Lancashire, however, are neither fools nor devils; and we believe that when they deliberate on the interests of themselves, of their men, and of the country at large, they cannot be blind to the advantages of sound information, of honesty, and of justice. If they once admit this information, the effect of their forming an organisation that may collect knowledge and suffrages, is another step in the direction of a general understanding.

The men, however, ought to be sensible of the responsibility entailed upon them, by the joint difficulties and opportunities which this organisation of the masters affords. We can readily understand that an appearance of systematic hostility may provoke the men; and the first act of the masters' associations may tempt the hands to retaliatory measures. We hope not. The demands of the men, if they are sound, must rest upon commercial principles, which will ultimately prevail, if the men stick to reason and to commercial necessity. In other words, the masters will do what they must, if they can be made to understand that they must do it; and the men will not enforce that conviction upon the masters half so well by riotous actions or offensive language, as they will by calm determination, distinct reasoning, and statement of plain fact. Organisation can do much, but it cannot do everything. No organisation in the world could make the Mersey run back to its source. No organisation of masters can convert the men into that which is, commercially, a very valuable commodity—willing workmen. If the workmen rely upon the true strength of their case, the organisation of the masters may be the means of bringing the question to the judgment of reason, sooner than if the men had to deal with the masters separately.

To attain that end, however, the men will be all the stronger if they have an organisation of their own, so that it be well conducted. Possessing that machinery, they will be able to meet the masters, and to present the case on the one side, in a form matured for consideration on the other side. The masters who are organising themselves speak as if they would refuse to acknowledge "associated bodies of mill hands;" but if the men use their opportunity well, they will make the masters feel that it is more convenient to deal with associated bodies than with the men in detail.

It may be possible to convert those hostile associations into that system which has been successfully carried out in France, and very imperfectly attempted in England, in a Conseil de Prud'hommes—a council of discreet men, to determine upon the general arrangements of the trade. It has been a recent improvement in France, to ad-

mit a representation of the working-men at these councils,—a step which must conduce to arriving at a general understanding the sooner. Should the men act with sufficient perseverance in maintaining a reasonable position, they may ultimately obtain a fusion of those two councils which are now arrayed in an attitude hostile, and consequently hurtful, to each other.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT TO BE CONCEDED.

ONE announcement made by Lord Palmerston, on Tuesday, we regard as being the germ of the most important class of public acts—it is, that a measure will be prepared by Government, introducing the principle of county representation in connexion with county rates. We know well enough that this will not satisfy those who insist upon a restoration of the true Saxon principle of local self-government, which ought to leave the parish to manage the parish, the county the county; every aggregation of freemen, in short, to manage the affairs coming within the local boundaries of their own homes collectively. We quite agree with those who hold complete local self-government to be the true broad, solid foundation of political freedom; but we do not expect to realise anything complete in these days of compromise; and we are well content to get hold of a principle that will do practical good, and tend to a healthy restoration. County boards are, undoubtedly, a very imperfect form of local self-government; but if we can only make them succeed, we may get the principle extended, until we emancipate the people of England.

We anticipate as much, because the benefit will extend to all classes, even to some who are not expecting it. It must prove pleasant in the working; and it will have effects scarcely anticipated at a first glance. We will touch only upon those which Emerson might call representative benefits.

The *Times* invokes the sympathies of the philanthropist on behalf of a creature overworked, harassed, and ill-used—the miserable M.P.:

"They don't do the work as it ought to be done, and it is quite impossible they should. Here they have been at it, with slight intervals, ever since November. During that period, or at least a great part of it, they have been giving to the work of legislation—that is, to hearing bad speeches, and similar occupations—more hours a-week than they will themselves permit a strong woman, or a young man of seventeen, to stand at a spinning jenny and keep the spindles going by joining the broken threads with his forefinger and thumb—as if that would not be a light and agreeable occupation compared with listening to a young lawyer trying to talk himself into consideration. There is committee business, and the afternoon sitting, and the evening sitting, usually protracted to some hours after midnight. Last week, the Speaker was in the chair till half-past two on Tuesday morning, till four on Wednesday morning, till three on Friday morning, and till between one and two on Saturday morning. Any member who does his duty must sit or hang about the House twelve or fourteen hours on four days of the week, six hours another day, and before the session is over, will have to give up his Saturdays also. Meanwhile he is supposed to read heaps of blue-books, deposited sometimes six inches deep on his hall table before he is out of bed, if he ventures to indulge in that luxury. Then, he has a large correspondence with his constituents, tendering their advice, or wanting places, or both. As he cannot do all this honestly, or indeed at all, he shirks the greater part of it, and botches the rest. In fact—to use a common expression—the business of the nation is 'scamped,' like a contract undertaken by tradesmen unequal to it. A well-intentioned member gets up at nine, reads his papers, his letters, and some Parliamentary report, till it is time to order his brougham, and go to a committee or a morning sitting; and he is positively lost to his wife and family and friends till, two or three hours after midnight, he steals into his own house with a latch-key and gets into bed, in the condition of a fox that has been hunted twenty miles, and just saves its life by creeping into a sewer, with the hounds at its heels."

"The chief source of the evil," says the *Times*, with astonishing forgetfulness, "is endless and pointless talking, and chiefly of new Members;" and the journalist proposes a sumptuary law on gabble. The idea is not new, but a practicable measure has never yet been devised. Were it discovered, however, it would only be followed in Parliament by a new discovery—that if Members would talk less, they would find more to say and

to talk about! For the most astonishing thing in all this "endless and pointless talk" is, not the flood of words, but the little that is really said. If Members would leave off ringing the clapper with less system than the parish registers at their weekly practice, they would remember a thousand things that ought to be said, which are now left beneath the surface of the flood—fish that we dream not of beneath the idle waves that chase and is chased in endless seasaw. For the measures that Members talk about are compared to the measures that roam under that monotonous flood—few as the ships above compared to the shoals below. Let the reader look any day through the royal assent list, and see what he has learned of the measures there mentioned. He recognises but a fraction, even by name; and yet if Parliament did its duty, every M.P. would want to know what is this measure to which, by his vote or his sufferance, he is giving his assent. If it comes to Parliament at all, it must be for high sanction; and how is that sanction abused if, in the majority of cases, it is conferred by default! Yet such is the fact. Better that the measures should receive a lower sanction, so that it were an intelligent and responsible one. And what are the bulk of those about measures? "Local and private business"—improvements, alterations of roads, enlargements of harbours, exceptional associations for limited objects, and the like. In other words, all of them proceeding upon general principles, they are local and private applications of general laws—county and town applications of imperial rules. How absurd, then, to crowd all these objects upon the over-crowded Parliament. How absurd that the merits of a plan for making a canal and railway from Buth to Glydn should be referred from the dignitaries and savans of those celebrated places, who know all about it, to the very busy Members of the Imperial Parliament, who know nothing about the scheme whatever—who cannot even tell the population of Glydn, or find their way from Buth to the nearest conventicle! Recognise the principle that things to be done within the parish concerning only the parish, within the county concerning only the county, may be managed by authorities within either boundary, under obedience to general laws furnished by the general authority, and you relieve Parliament by lightening its work—take away bodily a part of that for which the poor M.P. sits up nights in defiance of Brotherton, of health, and of good repute for self or Senate.

One evil which railways were expected to cure, but vainly, is the aggregation of vast towns, with all their moral and sanitary difficulties; but the evil is not cured because the cause is not removed. What collects people into towns but the necessity of going there to do what cannot be done at their own doors in the country? The grandees come to town, promoters of private bills come to town, and a traffic is permanently established to provide for these periodical visits in the metropolis. Let much of the business remain out of town, and so would many of the people, and country trade would benefit by the relief of the metropolis. Thus local self-government is calculated to be a great sanitary measure.

But it would have no small political effects. Every man is not calculated to be a statesman figuring on an imperial stage; but every man knows something about the business of his own immediate circle, and ought to take his share in it. Remit all local business to its own place, and a proper activity would be furnished for each man in his own sphere. Provided with objects of action there—a true universal suffrage—men would be pressing less upon questions of central authority; and while liberty would be maintained at its sources, agitation would be less wide and aimless in its movements. Let a man be the Gracchus of his village, and he would not so eagerly care to attempt the duties of Gracchus for his country. The principle of local self-government has worked well for those outlying "English counties" called colonies. Our home counties would like to have a taste of the boon, and Lord Palmerston promises a seedling concession.

THE SIMONY BILL THROWN OUT.

SIMONY, like bribery at elections, is one of our cherished institutions. Attack Simony and you aim a blow at the rights of property, and shake the foundations of the throne. The Bench is preserved from corrupt appointments; the sale

of official posts is forbidden under heavy penalties; even commerce will not suffer the purchase of clerkships; but that office which assumes to be instituted for the saving of souls is to be had for hard cash. Corruption denounced by Law, and scouted by Commerce, takes refuge in the Church—"the most sacred of our institutions."

How shall we account for this anomalous state of things? When Nonconformity puts forth its strength; when Rome threatens our ecclesiastical institutions; when Inquiry challenges Belief to produce its credentials; who are the loudest to shriek in the Parliament, on the hustings, and at the open meeting, that "the Church is in danger?" Certainly not the Clergy, but the Laity of the Church. These gentlemen profess to believe in the Scriptures, and to stake that salvation in which they parade their belief on the doctrines and ceremonies of the Church of England. Now, they know that simony is considered as a heinous crime by that Church; yet they are the great upholders of that crime. They fill the papers with advertisements of livings to be sold; they provide work for the auctioneer; they take money for the right of selecting the future guides to salvation. This conduct is a scandal not only to the Church, but to the nation; and we can only account for it on one of three suppositions. Either the lay patrons who sell advowsons and next presentations are hypocrites, not believing in the creed they profess, or they believe and sin nevertheless, or their perceptions of right and wrong are so blunted that they have ceased to discern the sin. Probably there are instances of each class among the lay patrons; to whom in the majority of cases the Church of England is a political and social convenience, and to the minority only an essential institution. The preservation of lay patronage, and its almost inseparable attendant simony, provides an outlet for younger sons, incapables, and scapegraces. When Henry the Eighth seized the property of the Church and parcelled it out among his creatures, he not only robbed the Church but the poor and the nation; and he laid the foundation for one of the worst evils of our Erastian establishment. No amount of sophistry can explain away the fact that professing lay members of the Church do an enormous and lucrative business in the sale and purchase of the cure of souls. Taken with the other proofs we have so repeatedly offered, and which when occasion serves we shall offer again and again, this crying and disgraceful evil of simony affords incontestable evidence of the rottenness and anarchy of our ecclesiastical system.

Mr. Phillimore, ably sustained by Lord Goderich, has vainly attempted to obtain the consent of Parliament to a very partial removal of this evil. That his bill should not pass this session cannot be made a matter of complaint against anybody. We are now in the middle of July; Ministers did not place ecclesiastical reform in their programme, and therefore they break no pledges. Independent Members cannot carry bills through at this season of the year. All these are conclusive reasons against attempting to force the measure forward; and Lord Goderich acted discreetly in withdrawing the bill. There is no special reason why it should pass now; there is only the standing reason—the scandal, the sin, of long years.

But this does not exonerate the laity of the Church of England; this does not exonerate the bishops and clergy of the Church of England, many of whom have accepted and will continue to accept livings obtained for them by the coin of the realm. The Church tacitly permits simony, and her clergy are accomplices in its perpetration. This does not exonerate effete Whiggism—the gospel of the great Revolution families and their hangers on. This does not exonerate Young Toryism, which champions the cause of the bucolic followers of Magus, and cries out in their behalf in this respectable twang:—

"In these days every invasion of the right of property (especially of Church property) is attended with danger; and the provisions of this bill seem to us most objectionable in principle, as being nothing more than a step towards the prohibition of the sale of an advowson and the subversion of our whole system of Church patronage."

Who proposes to invade church property? It is the property shamelessly claimed and enjoyed by the lay patrons that would be "invaded." And, after all, so slight a step is proposed by the

bill, that it is not even the property of the patron in the presentation, that it is proposed to invade, but his simoniacal conversion of the right of presentation into a property, transferable like stock, for filthy lucre. It is not proposed to interfere with the right to present; it is only proposed that the law should prohibit the right to sell the presentation—should step in between the patron and his propensity, and prevent him from committing—what his religious conscientiousness is not strong enough to prevent him from committing—a sin, according to the gospel in which he thinks he believes.

Verily, the Church of England is, in the eyes of impartial men, as well those who accept as those who reject her doctrines, in a degraded plight. Her lay members perpetrate, her officiating ministers connive at acts which are condemned by the letter, and still more by the spirit of the Gospel on which both profess to found their faith. She is debarred from self-guidance, even in matters of discipline, still less of doctrine. Her property is so abused and unequally shared as to be a source of unseemly contention and perpetual and venomous warfare. No man knows her doctrine; and her ordained ministers cry "lo! here, and lo! there," and hotly quarrel over the most essential points of her doctrines, her creeds, and her ceremonies; yet under the guise of one formal profession, all this discordant mass holds its temporal and spiritual possessions. And so we arrive at the saddening conclusion that the bond, the *religio*, of the powerful, the respectable, the spiritual State Church of England, is not of faith unto eternal life, but of property unto temporal enjoyment, power, and glorification.

And this is the state of that Establishment which archbishops, and aristocratic and bucolic laymen prevent from even attempting to be honest in the teeth of consequences; and which, because it exercises so great an influence over the life of the nation, we would fain see become so.

POLICY OF THE WESTERN POWERS—TURKISH RESOURCES.

LETTER VII.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Appeals to theoretical justice are of little use in presence of practical iniquity. In this paper upon the policy of the Western Powers there will be but little appeal made to what men are pleased to term the finer feelings; there will be still less to those principles of policy which unfortunately obtain too much credit in the present day; and many of the misguided humanitarians and the advocates of the "other cheek" presentation will be startled to see in the beginning of this enlightened nineteenth century a paper advocating a policy of the most determined reprisal. It is useless opposing a stick of vermicelli to a sword, and directing at Russia a whole platoon of moral principles would make about the same impression as pelting Mont Blanc with pebbles. The truth is, the Western Powers of Europe have been infinitely too enlightened to be sensible. Regarding the spider-like pertinacity of Russia in a bad cause from a too magnanimous and too highly moral point of view, and meeting it, where they have understood it, like enlightened Christians instead of like barbarian Christians, they have committed a most grave though a very comprehensible error. Indeed, clad in their supremely high and lofty convictions, the Powers have protested and protested until those precious documents of inefficacious talk would almost "form a girdle round the earth," and provide for the moral political philosophy of the schools for ages to come. And all this paper, sir, has only served as wadding for the *feu de joie* with which the Russian army celebrated its victories. Russian policy has marched to its goal, in spite of these "paper bullets of the brain," and stands out now the most brazen *bas relief* ever offensively exhibited to an astonished world. And yet, until within these few days past, gentlemanly Ministers and honourable members believed in this intact uprightness of the astute Nicholas. Rounded periods and pompous declarations of the "perfect good faith of our allies," marvellously operated in restoring colour to pallid countenances; and that pure and noble barometer, the Exchange, by which, I regret to acknowledge, British statesmen are accustomed to measure public feeling, rose up by jumps, upon "these satis-

factory and encouraging assurances of her Majesty's ministers!"

The policy, sir, which must guide us in our proceedings with Russia is clear. It is one of boldness and unflinching determination. A temporising course of conduct has weakened our influence and rendered us comparatively powerless in all great emergencies. We have shown ourselves unequal to anything just in those moments when we should have proved our enlightened capability; and instead of drawing from the sources of our knowledge and of our civilization strength and independence, we have drawn but doubt and hesitancy, and ignominious fear. The public mind, the intellects of our writers, get more clouded and more clouded every hour. In one moment we are told that the answer of M. Drouin de l'Huys to the Russian manifesto was marked by great fairness and "a determination to uphold, in concert with this country, those principles of public law which are the strongest bond of national interest and of the general peace"—in the next we are reminded that "though it cannot be maintained that the present invasion is justified by treaty," "Russia is not so easily to be frightened by an attitude." No, sir, for the credit of England, for the honour of our common country, we may dare assert it without contradiction, England is the only country that trembles at an attitude. This unhappy enunciation of a principle applies both ways, and we judge, in our humility, where its most telling and most disgraceful application falls. It is Russia that must bully; it is England that must submit to be bullied. The fulsome praises of our glory, uttered a few months since around the bier of a departed warrior and statesman, present a melancholy contrast to our conduct now! And the French Government, which is admired, and the French policy, which is upheld, declares itself decidedly of opinion that the Russian occupation of the principalities would be a violation of public rights and of public law." Where, sir, is inconsistency to end—where is consistency to begin?

The public law of Europe must be maintained; the Powers must maintain the public law of Europe; Russia has infringed the public law of Europe by occupying the Danubian principalities; therefore the public law of Europe is broken, and Russia placed without its pale. As, therefore, the public law of Europe is broken by Russia, and Russia, like any other offender, must be brought to justice, who is going to do this? France is ready, Turkey is willing, but England, after encouraging this violation by her supineness, after declaring the irrefutable nature of this public law doctrine, openly winks at the burglar, and finally hints that although caught in the act, he ought to be helped off with a portion of the plate. What else means the doctrine that "an arrangement not utterly disgraceful to Turkey will probably be concluded, in order to save appearances." And this, sir, is the "public law" doctrine—this is the "armed peace"—the "balance of power," and that nicely-poised state of kingdoms, and that "congress of nations," which now interfere to prevent wrong, to stay aggression, and to render even-handed justice where that scarce commodity is needed. And yet this beam of European justice, sir, is evidently so ill-balanced as to secure the conviction of any mere trader who should dare to adopt it. And Turkey is to request this savage—rushing, hatchet in hand, to take her scalp, to sit down quietly and discuss the matter.

The first fell swoop has been made—the foul talons of the Russian eagle are now buried deep in the quivering breast of her unhappy victim. Religious animosities will be awakened, the slumbering embers of fanaticism fanned into a flame, and whilst the Montenegrins are gathering to arms, whilst the Russian troops are within the borders of the struggling empire, whilst the resources of the Porte are being wasted, her finances irreparably injured, her populace demoralized, her future of enlightened toleration and of progressive strength imperilled, if not destroyed for ever, England will negotiate. The lesson of the refugees has been forgotten. It was thought worth while to risk a general war for the sake of a few foreigners—it is not thought worth while to risk the same consequences for results of infinitely more importance. Is it not useless, sir, when despairing of aught but disgrace, when expecting nothing but shame, to expatiate upon the measures necessary to save our unfortunate

and deceived ally? With a last hope, and in default of the absolute interdiction of invasion to the Court of St. Petersburg, I will endeavour to trace in but few words our necessary policy now.

The primary pretext of Russian aggression is the uncertainty under which the Emperor pretends to labour as to the condition of the Christian population of Turkey. In conjunction with Russia, the Western Powers must therefore guarantee the liberties and immunities of these populations; it must even be made a condition of the support we grant to Abdul Medjid. The Powers will then all possess the right of surveillance which Russia arrogates to herself alone. But civil liberty has also been guaranteed to the Danubian provinces by Russia, and the European Powers must participate in this species of protectorate likewise. We must then obtain, once and for ever, a clear written text of the present position of Russia in respect to these provinces; we must have her claims defined, her rights absolutely fixed, and the barrier, once erected, must nevermore be passed. With concord, with courage and resolution, this may be effected; without them, nothing will and nothing can be done. Should Russia endeavour to extend her claims ere she defines them, an imperative determination must prevent her, and should she refuse to be satisfied with this joint guarantee of the European Powers, she will publicly proclaim the injustice of her cause, and the true object of her movement. Unmasked thoroughly—even more fully than now, if that were possible—if Europe unite not then, Europe never will unite, and must be utterly despaired of. But the position once fixed, stimulated rebellions, officious diplomacy, intrigue, and corruption, the fruits of apparently indigenous seeds, but which are really sown by foreign hands,—all these must be narrowly watched for and unflinchingly opposed. Propaganda must reply to propaganda. In the same manner that Russia has used Constitutionalists we must use Republicans. As Russia has raised the European provinces of Turkey, so must we raise Poland, Hungary, the Caucasus, Georgia, Persia, and any other points where Russia is vulnerable, not forgetting St. Petersburg itself. Not one nefarious weapon employed by the Czar should be neglected by ourselves; dishonesty and knavery are to be met, if necessary, by dishonesty and knavery too. Russia has prospered under such principles, and ought now to suffer under them; to meet defeat from her own weapons. We must hear less and less of a civilization which makes us fools, of a commercial supremacy which makes us cowards, and of a Christian enlightenment which proves us blockheads. Our faith in public justice and in imperial virtue has proved a flim—let us, therefore, treat rogues as rogues should be treated. If nations are to be an organized corps for the detection of the infringers of this much-praised public law, nations must be their own detectives, and if they are going to be detectives upon high principles, Christian forbearance, and immutable candour, they had better give up the system at once, until they become more sensible. There are many little dirty things in diplomacy, and all these together would not be so base as to encourage an ally in her hour of doubt, uphold her in her hour of courage, and desert her in her hour of danger. We are not necessarily virtuous because mouthing high principles, and we may be much more so while using these tricks of diplomacy, and talking, if not so prettily, yet with infinitely greater apropos and with infinitely greater discernment.

Presupposing, sir, the decision of the Western nations to protect Turkey from any future aggression, we will now consider the measures necessary for her preservation and continuance as a European power. The Christian population necessarily demands our earliest attention, both as being the pretext of foreign invasion, and the chief difficulty which meets the Ottoman Government in the internal administration of the kingdom. The Christian population of Turkey numbers about 11,000,000; the majority are of the Greek church, but large masses cultivate the Latin persuasion, and many are schismatics, belonging to the non-united portion of the Christian Greeks. They are further subdivided by political distinctions. There are the Russian Panславists, the Slavonian Panславists, the Illyrian Panславists, and the Greek members of the secret societies. Such are the main distinctions of the agencies at work, and striving to erect nationalities, but

there exist others, the aristocrats and town community parties, or democrats, numerous little self-governed towns or villages, and portions of the country, which may be said to possess no government, to acknowledge no master, and to pay no taxes that they can possibly avoid. These parcels of Christians, like dissenters and churchmen, are infinitely more bitter against each other than they are against the Turks. They not unfrequently destroy each other's hamlets, carry destruction into the towns, and perpetrate the most atrocious cruelties, under the guise of their fanaticism, and each proposing to advance, thereby, the Christian principles of his church. Their priests are, of course, the most intolerant, and hound them on. A Turk will marry a Christian from the Greek or from the Latin church, but should a member of the former marry a member of the latter, his religion punishes him with excommunication. The Osmanli frequently interfere, to terminate these frightful conflicts, and obtain the hatred of both parties for so doing. Such is the deplorable picture of the state of the Christian churches in Turkey. The various "Panslavisms" and societies, also contribute to embroil these populations still more effectively. The Greeks, physically and morally wretched, would never succeed, unless a total change passed over their character, in erecting a new empire in the East. The Slavonian and Illyrian Panславists would never submit the one to the other, and even should any one party succeed in gaining the upper hand, that party must necessarily oppress the others. One or the other religions must also predominate, and the era of persecution, inaugurated by so unfortunate an event, would lead to such terrible and sanguinary results, as European Turkey has long been a stranger to. The Osmanli indifferent, philosophically rejecting all these tenets and all these divisions, adjusts the scale of justice, and metes out moderation. The rule of the Osmanli at an end, the struggle of religious denominations commences. The sanguinary conflict fertilises European Turkey with Christian blood, and the victory won, by either party, the awful era of persecution commences, and the religious *auto da fe* holds its abhorred and uninterrupted sway. No Christian nation can be erected here, save upon the soil of a volcano. The populations are inimical, the races totally different, the religions antagonistic: and out of such elements, we are told to erect a Slavonian or other nationality! Two millions of Mussulmen, the most fanatic of the empire, the descendants of the janissaries, possess the mountain fastnesses of Bosnia, which, in such a case, would become a second Caucasus. Two millions are also scattered, more or less thickly, in Bulgaria; and the Bulgarians are a peaceful people. The Albanians are not only partly Mussulmen, but are totally divided in religion, where they are of a different persuasion; and these disunited races, these opposite creeds, are to join together, and, in conjunction with the effete Greeks, whom they heartily despise, eject the Turks from Europe.

The divisions of the Christians, then, assure the rule of the Mussulman in Europe, and this, perhaps, happily for the Greeks and Latins themselves. But in order more fully to accommodate the differences of race and religion, the Turkish Government should enforce those regulations which it promulgated, conferring equal rights upon the Christian with the other populations of the Empire. Enlightened merchants acquainted with these laws no longer bend to the Mussulman, but the poorer and ignorant classes of the Greeks in the country districts may yet be seen bowing to the fanatic Turk who maltreats them. In so far as practicable, the Sultan has also to protect the Greeks from each other, and to hinder the outbreaks attendant upon their opposite religious festivals. The religion of Mahomet, like our National Church, is endowed by the State, the Rayahs, however, like our own dissenters, have to support their religions; and will it be believed that to such an extent has the Turkish Government advanced, that demands have been made for the abrogation of this inequality? What would the British Parliament think of providing out of the national funds either for the Catholics of Great Britain or even for the Dissenters? And yet Turkey, which listens to such a demand, is barbarous and uncivilized. But Turkey can fortunately afford now to regard the sectarian differences of other churches with indifference, for they are

elements of her own strength. Turkey once having resolved to conciliate these parties, may succeed in her purpose. Learning to look for justice where they may expect impartiality, the Greeks and Latins will at length perceive the advantages of the rule under which they live. These mutual benefits will go far to cement what might appear an anomalous connexion, and the state of Christian fanaticism may yield to the softening influences of the enlightened toleration of the Mussulman descendants of Mahomet! We ourselves cannot provide for the education of the people: sectarianism prevents the accomplishment of this highest and holiest duty; but Turkey shows herself less sectarian than enlightened England; and perhaps that apparently insurmountable difficulty may yet be overcome by the Porte. This, if practicable, would perhaps complete the moral regeneration of European Turkey; for wherever education spreads, unqualifying sectarianism and relentless intolerance decrease. The screeching jackals of impure religions, and the bigoted supporters of doubtful and unimportant tenets of belief, shun the pure light of knowledge and advancing civilization.

But even the gradual abolition of these antagonistic elements must be accompanied by a physical regeneration of the countries, if the reform is to be complete. The great rivers of European Turkey must be surveyed, deepened, or regulated, as necessity may demand. Those pathways which now serve in place of roads, must be widened, levelled, improved, and made more available for mercantile purposes. At present they are nearly useless, and in many portions of the various provinces utterly impassable for anything but pack-horses. Harvests are often destroyed or left to rot for want of a market, and these productive and extraordinarily fertile provinces, which are capable of becoming the granaries of Europe, are now suffered to be locked up by Russia's closing the Sulina mouth of the Danube, in direct contravention of the treaty to which Europe is party, and in direct contempt of the public opinion of the West. Roads and water carriage provided, the impediments which Servia, Moldavia, and Wallachia have created between each other; the duties, quarantines, and passport regulations they have established, the Porte should endeavour to induce them to forego. A free intercommunication would thus become established, which would not a little tend to create material interests directly in antagonism to military ones, and be directly productive of large and constantly increasing revenues to the Ottoman power, and to the governments of the Principalities. Russia's sanitary cordon round Moldavia, and by which she "regulates" her proceedings in respect of all travellers whose papers are "fumigated," would then be the only barrier against the civilization of the West.

"Everything considered," says Mr. Spencer, "the inhabitants of these provinces are not immoderately taxed, but it is the manner in which these imposts are levied, and the want of tact in the administration, together with the rapacity of the civil officers, which in too many cases render them an intolerable grievance, that presses more heavily on the Rayah than the Mussulman." This arises in some part from the system of farming out the taxable districts, conferring the taxation as a fief, &c. Governments have successively given up this system of farmers-general, and doubtless the Porte will eventually do likewise. The system is unproductive, oppressive through the irresponsibility of the agents employed, and is, besides, in many other respects objectionable. For the rest, some of the taxes deserve reprehension from their very liability to abuse. Of this nature is that tax demanded when the Sultan makes a tour of inspection. For, as in the olden days of our English kings, provisions, horses, the Rayah, all must be at the service of the Sultan, and the Sultan's servants estimate the Sultan's requirements. "The land-tax being irregular is often made a pretext for much oppression." The *beglounk* empowers the authorities to demand the assistance of man and horse in the execution of any public work, for from twenty to thirty days in the year, and this is also objectionable. The capitation tax paid by the Rayah alone, should be abolished, being a disgraceful mark of servitude, and as ever recalling the history of his fall. It is, therefore, both impolitic and unjust. The Mussulman population are liable to the same annoyances and irregular taxes

as the Rayah, and in this, therefore, we can see that the even-handed injustice of the Sultan does not spare the children of his own faith. The revenue of Turkey is so variously estimated that anything like an approximate statement is difficult. Some authors calculate it at 6,000,000*l.*; some at more, some at less, than that sum. The following table of exports and imports will, however, give some idea of what Turkish resources might become were they only more fully developed! In 1850, were imported at Constantinople, cotton and woollen manufactures, and some iron and zinc plates, from Liverpool, to the value of 751,031*l.* From London, East and West India produce, and various kinds of British manufactures, 223,425*l.* From Southampton, fine cotton and woollen manufactures, cochineal, indigo, and other valuable articles, 833,670*l.* From Liverpool, in screw steamers, similar products, 612,000*l.* In a steamer from London, 16,300*l.* From England generally, iron 27,000*l.*, coals 8763*l.*; in foreign vessels from England, coals and sundry goods, 38,405*l.*; total, 2,512,594*l.*; and this, it must be remembered, is to the one port of Constantinople, the greatest centre of trade it is true, but far from standing alone; for we have yet Smyrna, Trebisond, Salonica, &c., and the ports of the Principalities to take into consideration. Galatz exported, in 1848, 95,497 qrs. of maize, 31,702 qrs. of wheat, 4507 cwt. of tallow, and other miscellaneous products. In 1850, the exports were somewhat lower; in 1851, 346,252 qrs., besides bones, linseed, bales of wool, hides, &c. Galatz purchased, in one year alone, manufactures and twist to the value of 233,310*l.* Wallachia exported, to the end of 1851, 387,475 qrs. of grain, rapeseed, linseed, boncash, &c. Wallachia received in return 231,330*l.* worth of manufactured articles and other goods! The bulk of the trade of these provinces is with England. Servia, Bosnia, &c. communicate more with Austria, and the importance of opening up extensive channels of commerce with all these countries may be in part appreciated by the foregoing extracts. Notwithstanding the small comparative geographical extent of our ally, our exports to the East more than double the value of our trading connexion with Russia; and as to Austria, she is unworthy of being mentioned as a purchaser at all. The old exclusiveness of the Mussulman is now no more; the moment is propitious for his thorough and complete regeneration, and for the perfect administration of his provinces. We have shown why this administration is to be looked for from Abdul Medjid, and not from the European population themselves. We have shown also how much more inclined to trading connexion we find the population of Turkey than the inhospitable savages of Russia, or even the enlightened Czar. The results of our policy will either open up these provinces, and enable the Sultan, unassailed from without, to calm the hatreds of his Christian subjects, and to pursue a general career of progressive reform, or surrender the finest and most fertile districts to Russia, and encourage the hatreds of creeds and races, and perpetuate the barbarism of the country. It is for British statesmen to choose their course, and it is for the nation to confirm them in it, if the nation cannot choose for itself.

There is but one more fashionable argument against the maintenance of the Turkish power in Europe which I will allude to here. The European provinces possess a Christian population of about 10,000,000, and a Mussulman population of about 3,000,000, or a little more. The Mussulman population of Asia, however, brings the total Mussulman power to 17,000,000. We have, therefore, 17,000,000 of Turks against 10,000,000 of disunited Christians. This, it is proclaimed, renders Turkish rule impossible, and yet the very persons who venture upon this assertion, defend the Austrian domination of 6,000,000 Germans over 30,000,000 of Slavonians, Hungarians, Croats, &c. I—not to speak of the blessings of Austrian "rights" in Italy. This is a better despotism, I suppose, supported, as it is, not only by hangings, floggings, wholesale imprisonments, and a military ferocity without parallel, but also leaning upon the bayonets of Russia for subsistence! Did I not speak truly, sir, when I asked, "Where is inconsistency to end—where is consistency to begin?"

ALPHA.

"A STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

THE conversation, on Thursday night, between Lord John Russell, Mr. William Williams, and Mr. Milner Gibson, was very indicative that we are in July: the inquiry being—when will the innocents be massacred? Herod Lord John not being quite able to say: while assistant "Leader" Lord Palmerston is found, at a later hour the same evening, recommending suicide, as likely to promote business, to the independent members who have "notices" for Wednesdays. When it was ascertained that the India Bill was safe—the safety of the Budget having been already assured—the session inevitably was marked out for the dullness which attends the execution of formalities—the completion of a routine in which no more room is left for party risks: and "at this period," as almanack writers would say, members of narrow chests and small heads begin to discover that morning sittings are preferable to evening sittings, that the enlightened Senate is too much given to talking, and that, generally, the House of Commons does not comprehend the best methods of doing business—remarks never made, not even by Mr. Ewart, who, though he never got a hearing, could always find satisfaction in conscientious listening, when the House came fresh to the full swing of the "noble competition" of parties. No doubt, when the orators go out and the business members come in, it is very heavy work: when Brotherton is in the ascendant, we know the nation is getting on; but we are not amused: and in the "club" view of the House of Commons, the William Brown class are bores; though to no class is the country—which, however, has very little to say in the matter—more extensively indebted. How is it to be expected that the young patrician, disgusted both with the season and the session, or the *dilettante* Mr. Ewart class, perpetually in search of finer principles, and taking the pedantic view of human progress, should find an interest in a morning sitting? A morning sitting is like a committee meeting on the stage of a theatre in the day time: the groups get light through the gallery sky-lights; there is a musty smell of properties, and a clammy sensation of dauby side-scenes; and everybody looks dismal, and hideously out of place. The House in the day time is like a theatre in the day time: you can't get over the conviction, that it is only rehearsal before you; and you miss the lights and the spangles; and cannot get up the delusion which after ten at night impresses you with the belief, that the greatest national Senate in the world is acting and speaking history. The young patricians, consequently, stay away; the debaters shut themselves up over their blue-books, correspondence and *impromptus*; the *dilettanti* M.P.'s devote themselves to calculating what they will save in their yearly incomes by the new cab regulations; and Great Britain is handed over to James Wilson, Joseph Brotherton, and William Brown. And when the morning sittings set in, the business members get an impetus which carries them predominant over the evening sittings too; the character of the Session changes; work is got through, and debating is suppressed. And then, when people are merely bored, they fancy they are over worked; and intolerable twaddle is talked, and even written, on that point. There is no reason whatever why Parliament should not sit the whole year round; in this age of railways and electric telegraphs all recesses are lunacies, but the long recess of six months is only to be regarded as a wide national mischief. Parliament tries to do in four months the work of a year, and it does its work badly in consequence; and clearly would enjoy better health, make better speeches, and take more cheerful views, if it sat all the year round, and divided the day, like other men of business, in a rational and easy manner. But the talk of over work is absurd; absurd in a leading journal which is got out by men who work every day as hard as Mr. Gladstone works in the Session, and who do that work the whole year round. It is absurd—because the talk is generalised, as if the House, in the aggregate, suffered equally; as if all Members worked alike; and as if the same Members were always "the House." Undoubtedly a Minister, when his department is involved, must keep his brain and body at full stretch to keep pace with the necessities of Government. But, excepting Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Wilson, Sir Charles Wood and Mr. Lowe, Lord Clarendon and Sir James Graham, which of the Ministers can be said to be laborious or laboured? Lord Aberdeen has not got the nature which would feel the killing excitement of work if he had it; Lord John's great grievance is that he is idle; Lord Palmerston is too clever a husbander over to have the sensation of being tired. And ask those who are worked if they do not enjoy it? Great labour at great posts is great happiness; and the sensation of mental satisfaction (men get used to the fidgettiness of responsibility) is in itself a preservative of health; while, as a rule also, hard work is the cause

of good health, inasmuch as hard work involves the most careful regularity of regimen and habit. Well, is the Opposition overworked? Mr. Disraeli leads as easy and graceful a life as any man in London; if Sir John Pakington were not kept scribbling and talking he would be miserable; Mr. Walpole is breaking down because he has nothing to do; if Mr. Bright were not chained at the oar, at the club he is beginning to like, he would be throwing off his superabundant energy just as forcibly somewhere else. Take the mass of Members—those who have trades, and professions, and callings, beyond the House, and who make money and keep the Senate going at the same time; of which of them could not, if he would, lessen his labours; who would accept the Chiltern Hundreds, or isn't a happier man, because of the House? But the late sittings! Sitting up till two and three never did anybody any harm yet, if there was average sleep enough afterwards; young ladies do it all through the season; fast young gentlemen all the year; and as there are only four night sittings in the week no member ever suffers to an extent to justify complaint from that cause. On the whole, talk about "overwork" is therefore mere cant, conventionally permitted only because it is understood that we are to be periodically charitable to 654 gentlemen who prove by their presence in the House of Commons, where men dominate by that mental energy which proceeds from perfect frames, that labour is their most intense luxury. Or, if the talk proves anything, it is this, that Parliament should sit, with better managed days, all the year round—a plan which probably only Ministers would object to. As to the public this self-government of Britons would be more clear if it wasn't that six months out of the twelve—in the recess—their governors are practically irresponsible.

Parliament is all the more dull at present that the excitement about the war has gone off. Parliament might consent to Lord Clarendon's interment—in a sack in the Bosphorus—of "national honour" but why should Parliament be sentenced to play the mutes on the occasion? If not a war, why not let Parliament have a talk about war? That was Mr. Disraeli's entreaty to Lord John on Thursday; but no—Lord John didn't think a key necessary where there was no "dead lock," he and Lord Clarendon and Lord Aberdeen could arrange easily for the self-governed country which is in profound ignorance of what is going on—much obliged to Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Layard all the same. Lord John had oddly demonstrated his fitness to settle the imbroglio. On the Thursday he had to apologise for a gross blunder which he had made on the preceding Monday. According to Lord Clarendon on Tuesday (and *en passant*, it may be said that nothing more ungraceful, undignified, or more unintellectual, than Lord Clarendon's manner in answering questions can be conceived) Lord John, on Monday, had given an opinion about the last Nesselrode note without having read the note! Mr. Disraeli, on Monday, put a certain interpretation on that note, Lord John repudiated the interpretation; Lord Clarendon corrected him, and with cutting courtesy Mr. Disraeli, on Thursday, makes Lord John apologise! The apology was that he had only seen the note in a newspaper, and very hurriedly; which amounts to this, that Lord John is not quick in conception, for which he begs the House he leads to be good enough to excuse him! which the House did; Lord John with characteristic self-complacency, not perceiving the conspicuous absurdity of his position and his confession. The House did excuse him, because the position of the House is still more ludicrous—seldom knowing anything of foreign affairs, and of this particular foreign affair being assiduously kept in the dark: the excuse in the present case being very magnificent—that if it talked much about the matter it might provoke a war; to which the enlightened House, like the enlightened country, is holly averse. Lord John's blunder led to this—that for twenty-four hours the nation was misled on a most vital point; and surely that is a circumstance which, by-and-bye, when the House begins to perceive the point, will justify a little complaint? Lord Palmerston was sitting by Lord John when Lord John blundered; why did not Lord Palmerston, who is quicker, correct Lord John? It is quite the rule for one Minister to make fun of the other, behind the other's back; no doubt Mr. Disraeli and Lord Palmerston, when they met in the dining-room, had a confidential grin at the "leader's" ignorance of Russian diplomacy; but it is not even out of order for one Minister to correct another, before the other's face. As, for instance, on Monday, when that first-class Minister and responsible statesman, Sir Charles Wood, received from Lord John Russell the greatest snub on record. The discussion was on the India Bill: Sir Charles and Mr. Lowe against the India Reform Society—these being the only two parties who are taking the slightest

notice of the legislation for the 150,000,000 "fellow-subjects, sir!" Mr. Bright leading the India Reform Society, with a vehement and unaffected contempt for Sir Charles Wood, which intimidated Mr. Lowe, was urging that that portion of the third clause should be omitted which enacted that the nominee directors, to be created under this bill, should be required to possess the same property qualification in India stock as is to be possessed by the ordinary elected directors. His reasons for this were cogent and complete; it was twelve o'clock, and there was a tolerable House of members who had nothing else to do, and had thought they might as well "look in;" and Mr. Bright's reasons were cheered: it is Tory tactics now to cheer Mr. Bright whenever he is bullying a Minister, which he generally is. Sir Charles Wood is remarkable for his fondness for *w's* when he talks, and his answer was something like this:—"Pwoow pwoow—wi dwont agree with those honwblwe gentlemwen. Verwyw nweccwsswssarwy thwawt thwerwe shwoulwd bwe cwmwunwity ofw interwewswts betweewn allw thwe dwirwectwrs. Swuggewstwion qwitw awbswurd." (Hear, hear, from Mr. Lowe.) But several gentlemen agreed with Mr. Bright, and said so; and a good deal was said about the general absurdity of property qualifications; so that when Mr. Bowyer got to talk the Radicalism of that point, he was called to "Question." "That is the question," said Mr. Bowyer, sitting down timidly and ashamed. "The question is," said Mr. Bouverie, in the Chair,—so and so—"will the honourable gentleman divide?" "Why," said Mr. Bright, "it is really of the utmost importance: I beg the President of the Board of Control will think over the matter." The idea of Sir Charles thinking: he crossed his arms resolutely, and murmured, "Pwoohw—pwoohw:" Mr. Lowe heard—hearing him. "Then I'll divide," said Mr. Bright, sullenly. The Tories cheered: Lord John just woke up from a deep sleep.—Sir James Graham, Lord Palmerston, and Sir William Molesworth (of course) were stretched snoring by his side,—and catching a suspicious smile on Mr. Disraeli's face, he inquired what was going on, was informed, and parted the cries of "Divide—divide," by getting on his legs—Sir Charles wondering.—Mr. Lowe respectful. "Ah—I think there is—ah—much weight to be attached to what the honourable member for Manchester says—ah—(cheers from Mr. Blackett, "Hear, hear," from Mr. Bright.) "I should have been—ah—glad—if—ah—there had been a—ah—more general expression of—ah—opinion on the point: but, as the House has not expressed its opinion generally, I—ah—think the suggestion of—ah—the honourable member—had better be agreed to." (Cheers from the India reformers and the Tories, Sir Charles Wood's head in his papers, Mr. Lowe making for the door.) Mr. Disraeli saw that Lord John had seen his intention, and congratulated the Government on their admission of an error, smiling sarcastically, but unable to catch the buried eye of Sir Charles, whose mortified glance he would have enjoyed—all in the "noble competition" of parties. The words Mr. Bright objected to were accordingly omitted: the clause, as amended, was agreed to, Sir Charles not saying a word; Mr. Lowe astutely not re-appearing. Well, Ministers no doubt have to endure snubs in private, but was there ever such a snub offered in public? except, perhaps, Lord Aberdeen's to Lord John, in the Monsell correspondence: this being Lord John's retaliation, perhaps, on his next colleague in rank. You would conclude that Sir Charles would resign that night, and have a correspondence with Lord Aberdeen, and arrange to go back with colours flying in the face of imperturbable Lord John. But not at all; this sort of thing is *selon les règles* in a coalition; the rebuff positively did for Sir Charles Wood; when the India Bill was next on (Thursday) he was even respectful to Mr. Bright, less flippant with his *w's*; and actually adopted a suggestion made by Mr. Bright—that old India merchants should be eligible with old India officials, for the nominee Directorship—adopted it with alacrity—perhaps, because he saw that Lord John, aroused by Mr. Bright's emphatic elocution, was making enquiries what was going on. There are other instances of free and easy manners among the coalitionists. An honourable member of the Radical party (Sir Joshua Walsley) said to Mr. James Wilson, one night last week, that Mr. James Wilson was not telling the truth (it was a question whether the House of Keys, the Isle of Man Legislature, had consented to certain Customs alterations proposed by Mr. Wilson). "Oh, oh," said the House; "really," said Mr. Wilson; "but I mean it and will prove it," said Sir Joshua: and, strangely enough, Mr. Wilson gave way, and consented that the matter should stand over. It did till Monday, when Sir Joshua asked Mr. Wilson if—why, if he had told the truth? "Really," said Mr. Wilson, "it was all a mistake;" and it appeared that Mr. Wilson, in stating that the House of Keys had consented, had told the

House of Commons what, literally, was not the case:—and on such a matter that was surely a queer blunder. But it is not rumoured that Mr. Gladstone has called on Mr. Wilson to resign; and Mr. Wilson goes on with his usual reputation—as "a capital man at figures."

There is equal dullness creeping round Parliamentary proceedings, because Government by party no longer exists; her Majesty's Opposition has abdicated its functions. Mr. Disraeli is still to be found siddling up to and purring in his place at the hour of six; and is generally seen asking all the important questions suggested by his lounge over the morning papers; but it is fully understood that he is talking as a potent individuality—no longer as the leader of a party—which he has deserted, no one knows for what, and the general conclusion being that he is now the Micawber of politics—having nothing to do, biding his time, and not seeing his way, waiting till something turns up. Lord Stanley is content with what he did, in moving the famous India Bill amendment; and leaves the Indian Bill to its fate ever since; Mr. Isaac Butt, who led away the Tories from Lord Stanley on that amendment (they say because Lord Derby didn't give, when he could have given, Mr. Isaac Butt an office) having disappeared, perhaps, in the direction of the Dublin exhibition; the Tories who accompanied him on the amendment being just as invisible and just as reckless about the 150,000,000. And when there is no Opposition, "independent membership" becomes a farce; and the suicide Lord Palmerston suggested becomes not only expedient, but inevitable. Mr. Milner Gibson's *felo de se*, with his County Expenditure Bill, on Wednesday, was an unavoidable catastrophe; for why should he have, as Lord Palmerston phrased it, a "*conversazione*" about a bill which he couldn't carry, first, because there were no friends around him to aid; secondly, because the squires were plentiful with quarter-sessions amendments; and lastly, because Lord Palmerston (leader on Wednesdays, when Lord John can't get up early enough) was contemptuously indifferent—his thoughts away on the Pruth or the Bosphorus,—and by no means inclined, out of present Home-Secretary conscientiousness, to narrow his mind to parochial contemplation for the amusement of Milner Gibson or Sir John Pakington. And when his brick in the Wednesday's orders came down, a score of others followed. None of the moving independent members (who had taken for granted Milner Gibson and the squires would have been at one another for the whole day) being present to move, the result was a gratifying sweeping away of a crowd of sham panaceas. For one circumstance we have no reason to regret Mr. Gibson's surrender; just as the absence of leading counsel in court often opens a path and a career to juniors, so, on Wednesday, the non-appearance of Mr. Robert Phillimore (who was down for a dissertation on simony), presented an opportunity to take a House of Commons position to Lord Goderich, the seconder on the back of the bill. He availed himself gracefully of the opportunity, and in a brief speech, marked by that repose which indicates breeding—in other words, self-possession—and which always tells on the House, he said all that had to be said on the question, and—withdrew the bill. Brief as the speech was, it had its significance; and the Radicals that day, when they got the news, must have been deeply mortified that they had not been there to hear a lord talking Radicalism—a lord, in the crack West-end club, speaking to the governing classes to the effect that they only sent into the church those of their sons who were too ugly for the army, and too stupid for the bar! Were it not the cruel fate of Lord Goderich that he must some day or other go up to the Peers, one might be disposed to predict of the young man making such speeches a future of vast political ascendancy.

A STRANGER.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The nature of the communication from Mr. William Sykes appeared to us to require a private answer. We accordingly forwarded one to *Croftland Moor Bottom*, and we desire to know whether he has received it.

"Questor" does not give his name and address.

Several papers under consideration.

"The Moral of Tory Triumphs at Liverpool," next week.

LOVE.—That is the true season of love, when we believe that we alone can love, that no one could ever have loved so before us, and that no one will love in the same way after us.—From *Goethe's Opinions*.

IMMORALITY OF AN AGE.—The immorality of the age is a standing topic of complaint with some men. But if any one likes to be moral, I can see nothing in the age to prevent him.—From *Goethe's Opinions*.

ART.—Art is a serious business; most serious when employed on grand and sacred objects. The artist stands higher than art, and higher than the object. He uses art for his purposes, and deals with the object after his own fashion.—From *Goethe's Opinions*.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

THE Aztec children occupy gossip. Remarkable specimens of humanity they are, but as to any one determining their place in the scale upon present evidence, the thing is clearly impossible. Two children aged ten or twelve, and seven or nine (according to the weighty authority of Professor OWEN), no more than thirty-three inches in height, are assuredly interesting, if only as cases of arrested development, (for we believe these children must come under the consideration of the teratologist* rather than the ethnologist.) Dr. LATHAM, so competent to speak on the ethnological question, does not consider them as a new species of the *genus homo*, nor even as a permanent variety. Professor OWEN regards them as instances of impeded development. Dr. CONOLLY was struck with their resemblance to idiots.

As before stated, there is not sufficient evidence for a positive opinion. A few hints are all we venture. We do not regard them as of an intermediate race—the structure of the pelvis, the smallness of the lower jaw, the position of the occipital vertebra with reference to the skull, prevent our placing them below the Bushman, and closer to the Chimpanzee. But if they are not of an intermediate race, they must be either of a race degraded, or they must be simple monstrosities—examples of arrested development. That they are not of a degraded race, we think is shown by the fact of their organization not having fallen back into closer approximation to the animal type. That they are cases of arrested development seems extremely probable; and if the reader will turn to the plates of the ancephalous mummy, brought from Egypt by PASSALACQUA in 1826, and drawn by GEOFFROY ST. HILAIRE (republished in ISIDORE GEOFFROY ST. HILAIRE's *Histoire des Anomalies de l'Organization*), he will be much struck with the resemblance to these Aztec children. The Aztecs, however, are only small brained, they are not without brains. But that they are cretins, Dr. CONOLLY rightly discerned. They are not absolute idiots—indeed they are too lively for that. But if we consider the structure of the skull, and further, if we consider the quaint angularity of their movements, (one of the most obvious results of idiocy being an inability to allow a graceful freedom of action, especially with the hands,) we shall probably feel the force of Dr. CONOLLY's remarks. Those who have been among cretins will remember that they are not *all* dull. Let but the senses be well developed, and there will be a restlessness which may easily be mistaken for intellectual activity. These Aztecs seem to us to have the sensory ganglia very well developed. What phrenologists call the region of the perceptive faculties is comparatively enormous; and you cannot watch them for five minutes without being struck with the insatiable activity of their senses; the point they have most obviously in common with monkeys. But of cerebral development there is scarcely enough to suffice for a monkey. The arrest in this portion is remarkable. And among the many structural indications of arrest—even more striking than that of the under jaw—is the position of the ears exactly on a line with the eyes. Another curious indication is that of their deficiency of language. When first we heard it asserted that they had no language of their own, and yet had learned to say a few words of English, we felt it to be a physiological paradox, without example. Language is not an accomplishment, it is a function; as any man may ascertain who tries to teach the most intelligent Chimpanzee. Unless the anatomical structure permit articulate sounds, there will be no language possible; and if it be there, the language will come spontaneously, as the function of every organ; how spontaneously and how actively let every nursery proclaim! Now it is quite clear that these Aztecs have the vocal organs, but it is equally clear that these organs are very imperfectly developed, or rather, let us say, that the nervous centres whence the vocal stimulus should come are imperfectly developed, because they do not spontaneously utter any articulate sound; they will do so at the bidding of their keepers, or (as we were informed) when their rocking-horse falls, they will exclaim "get up" impatiently, thus showing that under a strong stimulus they will speak, but this stimulus does not come *ab intra*.

Our conclusion is that they are cretins—unlike the cretins of Savoy and the Tyrol, because placed in different conditions; thus, to take only one example, their glands are not diseased, because, unlike the Savoyards, they drink water in which there is iodine. That they are a race we cannot bring ourselves to believe. They may be two out of many like them, and what is said of their being worshipped as Gods may perhaps be connected with the well-known superstition which everywhere regards idiots and madmen as holy persons.

Table-moving is still active, though FARADAY's authority has cowed the majority. No delusion can fairly be dissipated as long as people "believe what they see," and fancy they see when in truth they infer. We were much amused last week by this example of "evidence of the senses." Walking down the Strand in company with a friend, we were both surprised at seeing in a bookseller's window *Bleak House* lying open in the unmistakable shape of a thick octavo volume. Our knowledge that

* It may not be superfluous to explain that *Teratology* is the science of Monstrosities; in other words of the laws of organic deviation.

Bleak House was not yet complete, and therefore could only be seen in numbers, not in volumes, made us doubt the evidence of our senses. We looked again and again. There was the volume evident enough, unmistakable! What could it be? It turned out to be the last number of that work laid open on an octavo volume, but so nicely adjusted, that the two seemed one! We both laughed at this deception of the senses, and agreed that had not our previous knowledge corrected the report of the senses, we should have been willing to swear we had seen in a bookseller's window *Bleak House* bound in one volume. Had we said so to any one, knowing that such a thing was unlikely, should we not have considered him hypercritical in replying, "No, my friends, you saw nothing of the kind, but from certain impressions made upon your retina, you inferred that a volume of *Bleak House* was before you"?

A well-compiled volume—*Table-turning and Table-talking*—has just been issued by the house of VIZETELLY, wherein the various articles which have appeared in French, German, and English papers, are collected and translated.

While the fever of the Turkish question is raging, BAYLE ST. JOHN, already known as an excellent writer on the East, has produced a volume well worthy of attention—*The Turks in Europe*. He is rather hard upon the Turks, and greatly in favour of that notion touched on in these columns some weeks ago, of the Hellenic Empire.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

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| <i>The Poultry Book.</i> | W. S. Orr and Co. |
| <i>The New Quarterly Review.</i> | Hookham and Son. |
| <i>Head of an Analysis of the History of Greece.</i> By D. W. Turner, M.A. | J. W. Parker and Son. |
| <i>Lecture on the Chinese Language and Literature.</i> Delivered by James Sumners. | J. W. Parker and Son. |
| <i>Table Turning and Table Talking.</i> | H. Vizetelly. |
| <i>Politics Made Easy, for Young Men.</i> By J. Bentley. | W. C. Stevenson. |
| <i>There and Back Again in Search of Beauty.</i> By J. A. St. John. | 2 vols. Longman and Co. |
| <i>The Eastern Question, in Relation to the Restoration of the Greek Empire.</i> | By an Inquirer. Longman and Co. |
| <i>The Royal Descent of Nelson and Wellington.</i> By G. R. French. | William Pickering. |
| <i>The Midland-Metropolitan Magazine and Monthly Review.</i> | Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co. |
| <i>Life and Times of Madame De Staël.</i> By Maria Norris. | David Bogue. |
| <i>Bohn's Antiquarian Library—Matthew of Westminster's Chronicle.</i> By C. D. Young. | H. G. Bohn. |
| <i>Bohn's Classical Library—The Organon, or Logical Treatises of Aristotle.</i> By O. F. Owen, M.A. | 2 vols. H. G. Bohn. |
| <i>Bohn's Illustrated Library—China: Pictorial, Descriptive, and Historical.</i> | H. G. Bohn. |
| <i>Bohn's Standard Library—The Prose Works of John Milton.</i> Vol. 5. | H. G. Bohn. |
| <i>The Turks in Europe: A Sketch of Manners and Politics in the Ottoman Empire.</i> By Bayle St. John. | Chapman and Hall. |
| <i>Reading for Travellers—Samuel Johnson.</i> By Thomas Carlyle. | Chapman and Hall. |
| <i>California and its Gold Mines.</i> By Robert Allsop. | Groombridge and Sons. |
| <i>The Illustrated London Astronomy, for the Use of Schools.</i> By J. R. Hurd. | Ingram, Cooke, and Co. |
| <i>Electric Science; its History, Phenomena, and Applications.</i> By F. C. Bakewell. | Ingram, Cooke, and Co. |
| <i>The Universal Library.</i> | Ingram, Cooke, and Co. |
| <i>Diagnose.</i> Vol. 1. | J. Bennett. |
| <i>The Family Treasury.</i> No. 1. | Houlston and Stoneman. |
| <i>Writings of Douglas Jerrold—A Man made of Money.</i> | Punch Office. |
| <i>The Dodd Family Abroad.</i> No. XI. | Chapman and Hall. |
| <i>Home Circle.</i> | W. S. Johnson. |
| <i>Lawson's Merchant's Magazine.</i> | T. F. A. Day. |
| <i>Tail's Magazine.</i> | Partridge and Oakley. |
| <i>The Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology.</i> | John Churchill. |
| <i>The Home Companion.</i> | 69, Fleet-street. |

HAYDON'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

Life of Benjamin Robert Haydon, Historical Painter. From his Autobiography and Journals. Edited and compiled by Tom Taylor, Esq. 3 vols. Longman and Co.

THIS is the saddest, yet most inspiring and intensely interesting book that has appeared for a long while; a book directly interesting to artists, but also to every spirit struggling with the world; a book containing in the form of personal experience and example some of the wisest lessons of life. The finest picture Haydon ever painted is painted in these volumes.

It is difficult to like Haydon, as one sees him here portrayed, but impossible not to admire the immense energy, courage, and ardent aspiration which moved him. There was more swagger than strength in him, more confidence than genius; but he had some of the qualities which go to form greatness, and his success was entirely owing to these qualities. Taking the most favourable view of his powers, we should sum them up in his own words, applied by him to Fuseli,—"On the whole he was a great genius, but not a sound genius, and failed to interest the nation by having nothing in common with our natural sympathies."

His strength lay in the confidence he had in high principles of Art, and the courageous love with which he laboured: weak as he was in life, he was resolute in Art. He could not attend to the most ordinary suggestions of prudence, but he gave passionate attention to all that could advance his painting. The completeness of his studies, and the deep inward delight which always sustained him while at work, will not be lost on the student who reads these records. This is the valuable lesson of his life: it shows the magnificent reward which high aims carry with them; it shows the inspiring courage they bring, and how they enable man to face and baffle adversity, to "scorn delights and live laborious days." Haydon's sufferings arose from his weakness, his perversity, his bad temper; his happiness, and the sympathy he found so active and abundant on all sides, were due to his noble ambition. Sad the book is, sad with sordid cares and miserable pettinesses, but it fascinates with its earnestness, as Haydon himself fascinated.

There are records in these pages of generosity and sympathy which astound us. We knew before how great was the generous aid daily stretched to struggling artists and authors—how much unsolicited kindness and active benevolence is incessantly employed to relieve the wants of such men in a style of liberality and delicacy which makes the common sarcasm about "money getting, money loving people," odiously untrue; we knew before that scarcely a biography appears which does not record such generosity, and that the unwritten biographies would multiply such

record thousandfold; but with all our experience we were not prepared for such revelations as these in Haydon's life. He lived on friends and patrons, from first to last. He was always borrowing; always in difficulties. If the sums which were given and lent to him were added up, they would make a fortune. But these items are nothing, in our eyes, to the following examples:—

"Never shall I forget my melancholy walk through Kensington Gardens back to London.

"What should I do? I owed my landlord 200*l*. How was I to go on? Would he allow it? How was I to dine,—to live in fact? A large picture just rubbed in—in want that day of a dinner. Shall I give up my Solomon, relinquish my schemes, sell all, retire to obscure lodgings, and do anything for a living? It would be praiseworthy—it would be more. But if I did, I never could realize enough to pay my debts. Surely it would be wiser to make another cast—to dismiss despair. I was in health: I had no family. I knew myself capable of submitting to anything, but when once a situation is relinquished, it is not possible to regain it again. Besides, the apparent cowardice, after preaching such heroic doctrines to the students. The apparent cowardice was nothing if I could approach nearer my grand object by it, but I thought I could not by submission do so—and then the meanness! How could I submit who had told the students that failure should stimulate and not depress? Contemptible! How bear my own reflections—how the reflections of others, knowing I deserved them? Something instantly circulated through me like an essence of fire, and striding with wider steps, I determined to bear all—not to yield one particle of my designs—to go at once for my model—to begin to-morrow, and to make the most of my actual situation. 'Well done,' said the god within, and instantly I was invincible. I went to the house where I had always dined, intending to dine without paying for that day. I thought the servants did not offer me the same attention. I thought I perceived the company examine me—I thought the meat was worse. My heart sank as I said falteringly, 'I will pay you to-morrow.' The girl smiled and seemed interested. As I was escaping with a sort of lurking horror, she said, 'Mr. Haydon, Mr. Haydon, my master wishes to see you.' 'My God,' thought I, 'it is to tell me he can't trust!' In I walked like a culprit. 'Sir, I beg your pardon, but I see by the papers you have been ill-used; I hope you won't be angry—I mean no offence; but—you won't be offended—I just wish to say, as you have dined here many years and always paid, if it would be a convenience during your present work, to dine here till it is done—you know—so that you may not be obliged to spend your money here, when you may want it—I was going to say you need be under no apprehension—hem! for a dinner.'

"My heart really filled. I told him I would take his offer. The good man's forehead was perspiring, and he seemed quite relieved. From that hour the servants, (who were pretty girls,) eyed me with a lustrous regret, and redoubled their attentions. The honest wife said, if I was ever ill she would send me broth or any such little luxury, and the children used to cling round my knees, and ask me to draw a face. 'Now,' said I, as I walked home with an elastic step, 'now for my landlord.' I called up Perkins, and laid my desperate case before him. He was quite affected. I said, 'Perkins, I'll leave you if you wish it, but it will be a pity, will it not, not to finish such a beginning?' Perkins looked at the rubbing in, and muttered, 'It's a grand thing—how long will it be before it is done, sir?' 'Two years.' 'What! two years more, and no rent?' 'Not a shilling.' He rubbed his chin, and muttered, 'I should not like ye to go—it's hard for both of us; but what I say is this, you always paid me when you could, and why should you not again when you are able?' 'That's what I say.' 'Well, sir, here is my hand,' (and a great fat one it was), 'I'll give you two years more, and if this does not sell,' (affecting to look very severe), 'why then, sir, we'll consider what is to be done; so don't fret, but work.'

It brings the tears in one's eyes to read such things!

Not only a tender-hearted landlord and tender-hearted restaurant did Haydon find, but—"credat Judeus!"—a fascinated bailiff! The man sent to arrest him was so struck with his Lazarus that he refused to take him! an incident which is perhaps even more striking than the one recalled by his biographer,—viz., that of Stradella arresting his murderers by his organ-playing.

One is amused by the vehemence of this fiery little man, who cannot paint a head, but always "dashes it in"—who never sets down to do anything but "flies at it" like a tiger, his very baby when offered the breast "flies at it like a tigress." When Elmes starts a journal, Haydon tells us, "I flung into it some of my best writing." This vehemence and swagger is visible in his painting: he perpetually mistook large pictures for grand pictures, as if power were nothing but size.

Swaggering vehemence and self-assertion are ludicrously illustrated in the prayers he perpetually addressed to Heaven with a pertinacity only equalled by that with which he pestered noblemen and ministers. To quote his biographer,—

"I have inserted this and other like utterances of devotion, that my readers may see what Haydon's prayers were, how compounded of submission and confidence, and in their constant demand for success and personal distinction, how unlike that simple and general form of petition which Christ has left us as a model of supplication to our Father who is in heaven. Haydon prays as if he would take heaven by storm, and though he often asks for humility, I do not observe that the demands for this gift bear any proportion to those for glories and triumphs. His very piety had something stormy, arrogant, and self-assertive in it. He went on so praying from his arrival in London to the very time of his death, and throughout his prayers are of the same tenor."

In one of the prayers given, there is a passage of ludicrous naïveté, wherein he speaks to Heaven exactly in the same style of self-laudation as to a patron. He is painting Xenophon, and exclaims, "Grant, O God, that the education of my children, my duties to my love and to society may not be sacrificed in proceeding with this great work, (it will be my greatest.) Bless its commencement, its progression, its conclusion, and its effect, for the sake of the intellectual elevation of my great and glorious country." His assuring the Almighty that "it will be his greatest," and that a chance is thereby offered the Creator of elevating our country, are wonderful touches.

Thus is the ludicrous mingled with the pathetic in these volumes. Read such an entry as this:—

"Silence, my last hope, has not sold. My last hope! Lazarus has come

back, and Binns has lost 300*l*. more by it, poor fellow! My debt was large enough without this. Some days ago, as my previous sketch shows, I settled the composition of Moses and Pharaoh. The background rushed into my head like an irruption. I tingled to the feet, and passed the day in a rapture.

"Perhaps portrait-painting may do me good. I know it may be made subservient to historical purposes, but I, who paint everything from nature, don't want such a means. Pity, after twenty years' devotion to my art, and having just completed my studies, I should not now have an opportunity to give vent to my power.

"Portrait the size of life is better practice than historical pictures in Poussin size, surely!

"A wife and four children must be fed, so to work I must go, willy nilly. Ah! my glorious times. I swam through life in a dream of love and glory. Passed! passed! passed!

"I think I felt yesterday something like a tinge of pain at my heart. If so, it is the beginning of my family complaint, *angina pectoris*."

Or this:—

"Began my family picture with dear Alfred's head, who is dying, too. I went on painting and crying. There he sat, drooping like a surcharged flower; as I looked at him, I thought what an exquisite subject a dying child would make. There he dozed, beautiful and sickly, his feet, his dear hands, his head, all drooping, and dying."

Curious, and yet how natural, this intervention of the artist's feeling amid those of the father!

We are desultory in our extracts from an *embarras de richesses*, and will close this present notice with two glimpses at the early struggles of another artist, now a man honoured by all,—Lough the sculptor.

"Lough did not, like Chantrey, put off his hour of inspiration till he was independent. Alas, he could not. His genius sat on him night and day like an incubus—goaded, haunted, pressed, worried, drove him to exertion. I was a fortnight without meat during Solomon. Lough never ate meat for three months; and then Peter Cox, who deserves to be named, found him: he was tearing up his shirts to make wet rags for his figure to keep the clay moist, and on the point of pulling it down."

Our readers will remember a parallel instance in the Life of Palissy, where that man of genius tore up the planks of his house to feed his furnace with. Here is another glimpse at Lough's early trials:—

"He declared solemnly to me that he had not ate meat for three months, and began the fourth. He said every day at dinner-time he felt the want, and used to lie down till it passed. He felt weak—at last faint—giddy continually, and latterly began to perceive he thought silly, and was growing idiotic. He had only one bushel and a half of coals the whole winter, and used to lie down by the side of his clay model of this immortal figure, damp as it was, and shiver for hours till he fell asleep. He is a most extraordinary being—one of those creatures who come in a thousand years; and last night when he said he went from my conversation always inspired, the gaunt and lustrous splendour of his dark eyes had a darkened fire, as if a god was shrined within his body, and for a moment forced his concealment."

Men who can endure thus for the sake of their Art are certain of success.

We shall return to these volumes.

ENGLISH PHILOSOPHY.

An Outline of the Necessary Laws of Thought; a Treatise on pure and applied Logic.

By William Thomson, M.A. Third Edition, much enlarged. Pickering.

An Enquiry into Human Nature. By John G. Macvicar, D.D.

Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

Elements of Psychology. Part I. By J. D. Morell, M.A. Pickering.

The Philosophical Tendencies of the Age; being Four Lectures delivered at Edinburgh and Glasgow. By J. D. Morell. People's Edition. Robert Theobald.

[FIRST ARTICLE.]

CONSIDERING the enormous intellectual activity England develops and employs in so many departments, from the highest to the most trivial, we cannot but be struck with the characteristic scarcity of works on Metaphysics. Compare England in this respect with Germany and France. Not only are new works of rare publication, but even the old standard classics of speculation cannot find a public. We have no translation of such works as those which in France find ready acceptance in the cheapest of forms—Descartes, Spinoza, Leibnitz, Malebranche, Gassendi; we have no Giordano Bruno, no Campanella; and only to Mr. Bohn's relentless enterprise are we indebted for Plato and Aristotle.

This is not a reproach, it is a statement. That English activity should so have neglected Metaphysics, in spite of the splendid vigour of Englishmen, when perchance they have entered the arena, is in itself a significant fact. To our minds a hopeful fact. Necessary as those great metaphysical battles were in earlier days, and powerfully as they assisted the evolution of Humanity, we believe their day of usefulness to be passed, their prolongation into our own times an evil. A writer in *Blackwood* some years ago well said, that by the time a man reached thirty, he had better have cleared his mind of metaphysics altogether, although up to that period they may have been useful to him. What is true of the individual is true of the race. We have outlived the age when metaphysics can be of use.

From old love, or from new curiosity, however, many readers will be glad to hear briefly of what has been done in this department; and we, having inklings of an old attachment, unable altogether to forget the happy past when in the still air of delightful studies an earnest struggle with these problems was rewarded at least by the negative conviction that the problems were insoluble—will act as "taster" for the bill of fare presented above.

Thomson's *Outlines of the Necessary Laws of Thought* we must speak of on the authority of those versed in this subject, for we cannot pretend to have had the courage to read one single book on Logic, (except John Mill's work, which is a work on Method,) no, not even in the dauntless days of youth when Averroes was not too tiresome, nor Spinoza too abstruse for our patience. The fault may lie with us; at any rate, we

are incapacitated from offering an opinion; so we borrow one from those best competent to speak, and that is eminently favourable. Readers of Logic, therefore, will do well to possess themselves of the *Outlines*.

We cannot advise any reader to do the same for Dr. Macvicar's *Enquiry into Human Nature*. It has doubtless cost the writer years of pleasant patient labour; and the ideas in it are probably ideas fairly worked out in his own meditations; but the reader slightly versed in such speculations will recognise them all as "old familiar faces"—most of them old familiar errors. He endeavours to rescue Psychology from its threatened absorption into Physiology; but before he could hope to succeed in the attempt, he must learn more of Physiology than he has at present mastered. He is of the old school of Metaphysicians, riots among Entities, and never questions the transcendental capacity of reason; he believes in Will as a distinct Entity, and also in Inertia! Why not in Strength, Digestion, Locomotion, &c., as separate entities? As may be anticipated, he is very emphatic on Free Will; and the following passage will serve to characterize his opinions and method:—

"But there is something peculiar in the character of the power which we have now to consider. It is not merely dynamical power; it is self-directive power,—that is to say, power such, that in order to its existence, it is an indispensable condition that the action which is its product shall express itself in thought before it consummates itself outwardly. And here let us remark that, as this condition is absolute, so has it been absolutely secured. The movement of thought has been made to exist in such relation to mechanical movement, that the velocity of its process is always greater; and it is therefore, from its very nature, always the forerunner of outward action. Thus, let the soul, in virtue of its self-directive power, determine itself at any moment simply in its own right as a cause, (1) and in its own indivisible unity, this act of determination is no sooner accomplished than it expresses itself in two ways—viz., that which looks to thought and gives it, and that which looks to action and gives it; and these two are so related to each other, that no sooner does the spiritual change take place in the bosom of the soul which constitutes the action in its origin, but forthwith thought effloresces out of it; the outward action or event necessarily lags behind—nay, normally remains in abeyance, until the train of thought shall have fully developed itself, and completed its course with respect to the action. This done, thought then closes itself by a peculiar act named a volition. And on the occurrence of this act of volition, or after this, though not till then (for a volition is its indispensable condition), the action at last realizes itself outwardly; the entire production of the action is consummated. Such is the account of the normal development and accomplishment of action in human nature. Its characteristic is the interposition, between the first internal movement to act and the fulfilment of the act in the outward event, of a train of thought; and this, when fully developed, consists in a panorama of many possible actions relative to the occasion, among which the soul has to choose for itself, and to express that choice by passing a volition in favour of some one action. Sometimes, indeed, in man when under intense emotion (and usually in the inferior animals), the outward action comes fast and spontaneously, and therefore fatally in sequence of the emotion without the interposition of thought or reflection, and without the necessity of a volition; but this is abnormal, in man at least, and need not now be considered.

"This train of thought, which may be short or long, clear and distinct, or obscure and confused, articulate or consisting in mere feelings, is usually named the motive of the action. Unhappily there is not in ordinary discourse a due discrimination between it and that act of volition consequent, in which the train of thought closes itself, and which is very distinct from all that has gone before. But since without this volition the action is impossible, the volition, not the original movement, it might be maintained in strict propriety, is emphatically entitled to the name of the motive of the action. The impulse, however, often is so named, and hence great confusion, and infinite difference and discussion, all of which might have been prevented by a preliminary analysis, and an agreement about terms. Towards this end, then, it may be remarked that, as expressive of the fact that a volition has been passed, we have in the vernacular the term 'intention,' or purpose; and we have also the term 'inducement.' Now, the latter would serve very well instead of 'motive,' as expressive of the thought, impulse, or feeling, in relation to the action before the volition has been passed; and in this way, without coining any words, which it is next to impracticable to bring into a spontaneous currency, the use of the ambiguous term 'motive' might be avoided altogether."

We will not follow the reasoning by which man is proved to be a free agent, because he acts according to the impulse of motives, the reasoning being old, and unworthy of refutation. There seems small hope of reconciling the Necessarians and their antagonists: the two combatants cannot be brought on to the same spot.

Consider, however, the capital distinction between Inorganic and Organic matter, and it may help to an appreciation of the real grounds on which the advocates of Free Will may rest. The organic is reproductive. It takes up materials from the surrounding medium, absorbs them, and reproduces them in new forms. It thus becomes a centre of Force; whereas, the inorganic is only, so to speak, a carrier of Force—it communicates, it does not reproduce Force. Now that which is true of the organic cell—and is true of it because of its complex structure—is equally true of the Mind; it also is a centre of Force, it also has a reproductive power, it also takes materials from the surrounding medium, and transforms them anew. Thus we feel ourselves to be causes, centres of force; and the Liberty within us is the freedom of a force not directly transmitted from without, but operating on and transforming the material transmitted from without.

But in saying this we say nothing the enlightened necessarian will demur against; we are only reconciling the verdict of consciousness, which says "the will is free to choose," with the verdict of philosophy, which says "causation is as rigorous in the mental as in the material world, and the will is not free to resist the strongest motive."

Let us add, however, that this dispute of Free Will is frivolously vexatious, and that sound psychology repudiates the idea of Will altogether, if by Will be meant a superadded Entity—a sort of "resident director" of the mind. We might as reasonably discuss the Liberty of Motion, making an Entity of Motion (as the ancients did) superadded to matter. Will is a mental state—the determining impulse—the reflex action, cerebral or cerebro-spinal, of the nerves—and in saying the Will is "free to choose," we only indicate the complexity of mental states—the

variety of motives which any one stimulus may excite within us. Metaphysicians will be aghast at our thus sweeping away their favourite Entity, and abolishing the Will altogether; but their forefathers would have been equally aghast at any denial of Motion as an independent Entity. And as Dr. Macvicar builds his *Inquiry into Human Nature* on the basis of Free Will, he will accept with serene superiority our indifference to his system.

Mr. J. D. Morell commenced his philosophical career with a *History of Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century*, which rapidly reached a second edition—and was materially improved in its second form, so as to become another book. He then published *Four Lectures on the Philosophic Tendencies of the Age*, the "people's edition" of which is before us, and the *Philosophy of Religion*. He is still a young man, and now sketches the outlines of a system of psychology with a vigour of thought and copiousness of erudition which would make the reputation of a professor. In our next we will give some account of this work.

Portfolia.

We should do our utmost to encourage the Beautiful, for the Useful encourage itself.—GÖTTE.

OMITTED PASSAGES FROM A BOY'S EPIC.

III.

LOVE AND THE FAUN.

HERE Eros ended, and the Faun replied:—

"O child of Aphrodite! listen thou,
For even Gods may learn of dying Fauns.
One summer eve, before the silver age,
Silenus, sitting among purple grapes,
Sung to the listening Fauns that held his cup;
I heard, and I remember what he sung:—
'The years shall come,' he said, 'ah, happy years!
When from an isle in the Ionian seas
The Gods shall bear to their refulgent homes
The loveliest woman ever eyes beheld,
And he whose awful life is in the world,
Whose voice comes whispering softly to my song,
He whom we serve shall weave a starry braid
For her white brows, and crown her heart with love.'
So spake the Faun, and Eros made reply,
While joy ran brightening over look and limb,
Until Divinity seemed more divine:—
"No lovelier tale, O Faun, the sirens sing
To ships that thro' dissolving moonbeams sail
On southern seas; but such high oracle
Behoves me bear to where, beyond the sun,
Dwells my great Mother: for no might hath love
Where beauty is not: and of all the Gods
'Tis only the queen Aphrodite gives
What makes life fairest. Therefore I depart."
The Faun replied;—"Time, in his silent lapse,
That mellow all the harvests of the world,
Will heap our year with fruit, and we shall know
How ancient prophecies are best fulfilled,
When trumpets sound from golden battlements.
But now farewell, and to thy mother's halls
Sail with the pilot winds, while I repair
To the green pastoral kingdom of my liege,
For ere the sun go down he summons us,
Fauns, Satyrs, and Sileni, to his court,
Where, to the sound of horns and castanets,
And pipes that bubble o'er with liquid noise,
The dance shall circle till the first pale star."
This said, the Faun, dishevelled with delight,
Flew headlong from the spot, and, as he flew,
Laught till the forest echoes answered him,
And the quaint children of the woods were roused,
And showed their furry ears thro' loopholes green.
Him Eros watched awhile receding fast
From dell and dale, but soon the God arose,
And balancing, as in an even scale,
The gold and purple orage of his plumes,
One moment looked around; the next, rode fast
On the smooth stream of the ascending wind.
And like a star that glides across the night,
Flew fading down the west, and disappeared.

M.

The Arts.

DON GIOVANNI.

MOZART'S ever-popular, ever-charming opera was played for the first time this season on Thursday. I could only see one act, but that one act was sufficient to show me how incompetent Belletti is to sustain the part of *Don Giovanni*, if the part is to be acted. He sang the music correctly, and with a lightness for which I did not give him credit; but his singing, like his acting, wanted *brío*. It had none of the *airs eningueurs* with which that charming reprobate bewitched the female heart; it had no careless

gaiety; no animal spirits. Madame Medori played *Donna Anna*—moderately. Formes, whose conception of *Leporello* is generally excellent, made a sad mistake with the *Madamina il catalogo e questo*, which he overdid, poking the phrases at *Elvira*, in a way as intolerable as it was misplaced. It reminded one of Fornasari's lugubrious attempts at fun in *Figaro*.

GERMAN PLAYS.

YEARS ago, when I was a happy and rebellious boy, my artistic impulses were gratified by tinselling the theatrical prints sold by Mr. Marks. The reader knows what I mean. He also has a vivid recollection of those specimens of art, "1d. plain, 2d. coloured," in which Mr. Biggs as *Orlando*, or Mr. Frazer as *Prince Karl*,—with a pistol in one hand and a sword in the other—with legs very wide apart, and arms telegraphically displayed—with faultless features, except that they had no expression—and with superb costumes, not strictly historical—offered to the youthful mind images of grace and grandeur which no Raphael could approach.

If the reader remembers those pictures and his sensations on beholding them, if, like me, in moments of weariness and unrest, he is apt to manifest his misanthropy (and knowledge of German) by spouting the lines from *Faust*,—

"Ich hatte nichts und doch genug!
Den Drang nach Wahrheit und die Lust am Trug.
Gieb ungebändigt jene Triebe
Gieb meine Jugend mir zurück!"

if he wants "to be a boy again," I advise him to go and see Emil Devrient in *Donna Diana*. No sooner did my eye rest on that vacant face, with its well-cut features and expressionless eyes, no sooner did I perceive the wide spreading legs and arms thrown into a series of attitudes never witnessed anywhere but on the stage—no sooner did I see him take a seat with that peculiar outstretched length of limb supposed to be graceful, and much cultivated by tenors and tragedians, than involuntarily I exclaimed, "1d. plain, 2d. coloured, by Jove!" In truth Emil Devrient is a living specimen of *Mark's Theatrical Characters*—you might tinsel him! I am told that in *Donna Diana* he is considered as "the ideal of a Spanish cavalier;" but as I am not told *whose* ideal, I must conclude it is the ideal of Mr. Marks. Look at him: watch the striding stiffness of his deportment, the tenor-like grace of his meaningless gestures, the vacancy of his handsome face, and tell me whether he is more like Mark's heroes or human nature. It is true that among critics I am in a minority, but let me ask:—Is Devrient's face expressive? Does he express emotion? Is the deportment natural or significant? I admire as much as you can admire his beautiful diction, and his noble voice; but for acting we want intellect, passion, representative power, and Emil Devrient has little. People may applaud him, as the Germans have applauded and enriched the African actor, Ira Aldridge; but if there are any principles in criticism, if it is not all caprice, I confidently assert Emil Devrient to be an actor of hopeless mediocrity.

It is almost idle to raise a voice against him. People accepted the *Mephistopheles* of a "super" who was allowed to play the part because no one else knew it; to the critics and the St. James's audience that performance appeared excellent! They also accepted, and with praise, Frau Stölte's arrogant princess in *Donna Diana*, though anything more intensely *bourgeoise* can scarcely be imagined. Now when the delusive effect of strangeness is so great as that—when an audience can call a Frau Stölte back to receive the ovation of a Rachel, it is idle to wonder at their admiring Emil Devrient!

This *Donna Diana* is a wearisome rhymed comedy, imitated from one of the very early Spanish comedies, Moreto's *El desden con el desden*, the idea of which has been so often worked on every European stage, that only excellent details could make it endurable; and I'll trouble you for details in a German comedy! But a patient audience meekly sat it out, and applauded when possible. I was meek for three acts, and then tore myself away from its siren dulness.

On Wednesday, however, we had really a treat with Schiller's finest piece, *Wilhelm Tell*—his finest because his last, and his was a mind which, as Goethe said, strode forward with giant steps. Goethe's influence is also very visible in this play. Not only in the conception of Tell's character, which Goethe gave, but also in its broader views of life and freer realism. Goethe has influenced this work in the same way as the German school influenced the *Guillaume Tell* of Rossini, also his latest and best opera. But as the dominant tendency of Rossini's genius—melody—is visible in this opera no less than in the earlier operas; so also the dominant tendency of Schiller's genius—rhetoric—is still visible in this work. Where Goethe would, like Shakespeare, have expressed a thought or an emotion in one teeming verse, Schiller rhetorically expands it into a dozen. This begets tediousness; it deprives the audience of active co-operation.

A noble play, however, and thoroughly historical, is this of *Wilhelm Tell*, historical in the deepest sense. It was performed with greater

effect than any previous work of this season. Emil Devrient, whom I have just laughed at, I must now say was admirable. He played the plain, rough, manly Tell in a rough and manly style; the manner was "stagey" and the stride detestable; but it was an effective performance, where the handsome person and deep sonorous voice were very telling. The emotion was *surface* emotion, expressed by conventional signs—signs never seen in real emotion; and to explain his whole performance by a comparison, I would say that it was just the sort of Tell Wallack would have represented. Good, but stagey; without a gleam of genius. Dessoir was fiendish and calm as *Gessler*; a word of praise also to Herr Pauli, who spoke the lines of *Attinghausen* to perfection. The audience seemed delighted with that bad actor who played *Melchthal* in a fat, boisterous style, and had not a hand for Pauli!

BURFORD'S PANORAMA OF MEXICO.

ON a light afternoon, say about five o'clock during the present month, anybody going to Burford's may very well stay there till the light begins to fail him. To see the new panorama of Mexico as it deserves to be seen, especial care should be taken that the light be sufficient, but not glaringly full; for the picture is on the top circle, the worst situated of the three, being exposed to the full blaze of the sun—when the sun blazes—and the worst constructed too, having a skylight crossed by heavy beams which throw their shadow on the upper part of the painting. Let us suppose it, then, to be evening in Leicester-square—not Leicester-square evening, but an hour or two before sunset. We turn out of the stream of Cranbourn-street idlers, and dive down the open passage of a house, standing back in the corner of the square, a hushed and gloomy passage, which looks, to a stranger, as if it would lead to a billiard-room or an auction gallery. But we know it better, old Burford stages that we are; we push open the swing door at the end of the passage, with the confidence of habitués, and hearing that Mexico is on the top circle, we refuse to go up stairs to the left, which would take us to Granada, and will not hear of trying the grotto on the right, which is the obvious entrance to Switzerland, but keep straight ahead till we find the wonderful triangular staircase, with its surprising effects of shallow corner-stairs, and boldness of sidelong decline towards the dusky banisters. Up this we persevere expectingly (we could have told the precise number of steps, once on a time, and were not disposed to credit a boy, who boasted, after the Midsummer holidays, that he had discovered more inside the Monument), up, and then down another flight, and then along a passage, and then up again, and—thank goodness—at last, Mexico. Here we are, in the midst of the city; on the top, and it may well be the very top, of the cathedral which stands in the Plaza Mayor; and, if we had any breath left to lose, it would all go now, at a gasp. Won-der-ful painting! Not nearly so full of beauties as Granada; the flat, common-place plain round the city will not do at all after the Andalusian Vega; it wants trees, it wants hills, it wants a river; excepting a few rocks near the Lake of Tezcuco, it is as round and as flat as a pancake; and it is shut in by mountains of various height, mostly volcanic. We know that one or two of these are about the highest in America; but that's nothing; a mountain's a mountain all the world over, and some people who have seen the Himalayas, declare that they didn't look as grand, after all, as the Finsteraarhorn or the Jungfrau. But how finely has Burford painted these mountain distances, the kind of work being that most suited to his powers. What force and character there is, too, in his architectural foreground! Here this panorama has a single advantage, and a very great one, over the panorama of Granada; the buildings being much closer upon us. A dome-spire of the church—it has two, from one of which the picture is taken—is the most prominent object; and so boldly does it stand out, that its distinctness from the objects beyond is, to an inexperienced eye, a complete illusion. The shadow of the cathedral falls across the square, upon the front of the palace, along its flat stone roof. We have chosen a time when we know that the sun outside does not reach the skylight above, or the effect might appear to be a natural accident. All the roofs of the city are flat, as most people are aware, and the inhabitants in some of the quarters lay out regular little gardens on the tops of the houses. The streets, running at right angles, cut up the flat-roofed city into cubes, even as far as the outermost boundary. Up in a corner of the Plaza Mayor we may see at one view, packed together in a square mass, all the queer old tumble-down houses in Mexico. There are none dotted about the city, or strung in rows, as elsewhere; no old clothes, no secondhand furniture, no cheap baked meats, no hot tortillas, maize cakes, frijoles, or chile Colorado, can be bought anywhere but in the Parian, as this ruinous block of buildings is called. There is a handsome market-place in another part of the city, but the Parian is the exclusive market of the poor.

A little book, which is sold at the entrance, is an exception to its class, in being really serviceable. Of the new picture itself it is not too much to say, generally, that it surpasses any which has been exhibited on this circle, and that we never came down the three cornered staircase with a more decided intention of saying so.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, July 15, 1853.

CONSOLS have been flat throughout the week, and the Nesselrode circular had the effect of sending them to 97½ yesterday. To-day there has been a rally, and they leave off 97½. In the foreign and heavy markets there is but little to report. Hardly any business doing; and if the heavy rains that have prevailed during the last few days should have affected the harvest, one can see a further fall in the funds. At present the Russian difficulty is a bar to all speculation or investment. Mining shares are, as was stated last week, nearly unobtainable. Land Company shares low. There is so little to state of actual business done, or probabilities of any increase, that it seems almost superfluous to send any account of the week's business.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday, July 15, 1853.

The trade on Monday was quiet, in consequence of the improved appearance of the crops here and in France; but since

then a change has taken place in the weather, and much business has been done in cargoes off the coast, and in wheat on the spot, at an advance of 1s. per quarter. The rain appears to have been general. The supplies of wheat, barley, and oats, are liberal this week into London. The value of the two latter is firmly maintained.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Satur.	Mon.	Tues.	Wedn.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	228½	228½	228½	228½	228½	229
3 per Cent. Red.	90	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
3 per Cent. Con. Ans.	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
Consols for Account	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
3½ per Cent. An.	101½	101½	101½	100½	100½	101½
New 5 per Cents.	54	54	54	54	54	54
Long Ans., 1860	258	258	258	258	258	258
Ditto Bonds, £1000	25	25	25	25	25	25
Ditto, under £1000	24	24	24	24	24	24
Ex. Bills, £1000	1 p	3 p	3 p	2 p	1 dis	2 p
Ditto, £500	1 p	3 p	3 p	1 dis	1 dis	1 dis
Ditto, Small	4 p	3 p	4 p	1 dis	1 dis	1 dis

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds	101	Portuguese 4 per Cents.	41
Brazilian New 4½ per Cts.	100	Russian, 1852	117
Danish 5 per Cents.	107	Russian 4½ per Cents.	100½
Mexican 5 per Cents.	27½	Sardinian 5 per Cents.	94
Mexican 3 per Cents. Act.	27	Spanish 3 per Cents.	94
July 29	27	Spanish 3½ per Cts. New Def.	22½
Peruvian Deferred	58	Spanish Passive, Conv.	54

German Plays.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

On Monday, July 15, Shakespeare's play of *WIDESPENSTAGE (TAMING OF THE SHREW)*.
Wednesday, July 20, will be revived *HAMLET*, being the only night that celebrated play can be given.
Friday, July 22, will be produced *OTHELLO*.
Schiller's Play of *WILLIAM TELL* will be repeated, for the last time, on Saturday, July 23, being positively the Last Night but Three of the German Plays.
Private Boxes, Stalls, and Tickets may be obtained at Mr. Mitchell's, 33, Old Bond Street; and at the Box Office of the Theatre.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC.
EVERY EVENING, at Eight o'clock, except Saturday.
Shows (which can be secured at the Box-office every day
from 10 till 4) at 4 o'clock; area, 2s.; gallery 1s.
A Moving Performance every Tuesday and Saturday, at
Eight o'clock.
Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.

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ATTEC at the HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS.—Unparal-
leled Success and Extraordinary Excitement! The Guardians
of the Attec Lilliputians avail themselves of this, the first oppor-
tunity to return thanks to the Nobility and Public for the unex-
pected success with which they have been honoured. The object
of upwards of Three Thousand Persons having visited these
groups and beautiful creatures in two days sufficiently attests
their popularity.
On Monday, from 2 till 5 p.m., and from 8 till 10 p.m.
Admission.—Reserved Seats and Promenade, 5s.; Second
Seats, 2s. 6d. Children, Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d.; Second Seats,
1s. 6d.
An Illustrated History of the Attecs, 1s.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

The FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION WILL CLOSE, at their Gallery, 5, Pall-Mall
East, on Saturday next, J. 23rd.
Admission, One Shilling. Catalogue, Sixpence.
GEORGE FRIPP, Secretary.

FIRE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF EASTISH AND CAMDEN TOWNS.

The Committee beg to call attention to the principles of this
Organization, which are—The Holy Scriptures, and not
human creeds, the only standard of Christian belief; the duty
of all men to inquire for themselves into religious truth; their
individual responsibility to each other for the conclusions they
may reach; and diversity of opinion no bar to church fellowship.
It is intended, as soon as the funds can be raised, to erect a
modest Church, on ground already secured, situated be-
tween the two neighbourhoods, which comprise a population of
tens of thousands of people.
In the meantime, religious service is conducted in the tem-
ple Church, Hawley-crescent, Camden-town.

A considerable amount has been contributed towards the
Building Fund, by members of the church, but the committee
and congregation feel that the accomplishment of their object
mainly depends upon the assistance they receive from others
who sympathize with them in this movement, some of whom
having already given liberally, encourage the committee to
solicit similar aid from all friends to free inquiry.
Subscriptions and donations may be paid to the account of
the Treasurer, at Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, and Co.'s, Bankers,
Lombard-street; to the Rev. William Forster, 11, Torrington-
square, Kentish-town; Robert Spurr, Esq., Hon. Treas-
urer, 25, Fitzroy-terrace, Kentish-town.

TEA!

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Good sound Congou 3 0 "
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This is the most pleasant and nutritious preparation of Cocoa.
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And delicious Green Tea at 5s. 0d. "
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Messrs. EISDELL and ASHCORBE beg to inform the
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NOTICE OF DIVIDEND.

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NATIONAL ASSURANCE AND INVESTMENT
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The WARRANTS for the HALF-YEARLY INTEREST, at
the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, on the Investment Stock of
this Association, to the 30th June, are ready for delivery, and
payable daily between the hours of Eleven and Three o'clock.

Depositors residing at a distance from London, will, on ap-
plication, have the Dividend Warrants, together with the proper
receipts, forwarded for signature; the amount will then be paid
on presentation at the Head Offices in London, or transmitted
through the Local Agents of the Association, Country Bankers,
or in any other way, to suit the convenience of Investors; so
that the Dividends may in all cases be received without
difficulty or delay.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.
9th July, 1853.

BANKS OF DEPOSIT AND SAVINGS BANKS.
INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL AND SAVINGS.

NATIONAL ASSURANCE AND INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION.

7, ST. MARTIN'S PLACE, TRAFALGAR SQUARE, LONDON,
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